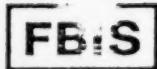


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Near East/South Asia Report



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TURKISH PAPER: 'SECRET AGREEMENT' BETWEEN DUKMEJIAN, REAGAN

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 17 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] Turan Yavuz, the Washington correspondent of TERCUMAN informs that the decision made by the House of Representatives and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee regarding 24 April is the result of a bargain struck between California Governor Dukmejian and President Reagan. Five days earlier an Armenian paper, THE ARMENIAN WEEKLY had already carried the news that the plan would be introduced in Congress on 5 September.

Well-informed sources believe that according to a secret agreement arrived at between Reagan and Dukmejian, the 250,000 Armenians living in California would concentrate their votes on the Republican Party provided the Government raised no objection to the Bill prepared on Genocide.

Again according to the same well-informed sources, Dukmejian has told Reagan that the Armenians would give their votes to the Democrats if the Bill is not ratified by Congress. The fact is that the Armenian vote may affect the results of the election. This threat by Dukmejian produced its effect and Reagan accepted the Armenian demands.

This course of events shows that the Armenian claims that the members of Reagan's Government had no idea that such a plan had been sent to Congress are false.

An impartial observer in Washington said that "this Armenian plan is like a second 'letter by Johnson' for the Turks." Others expressed the opinion that certain circles want to revive the Treaty of Sèvres.

Dukmejian's Letter

A letter sent by George Dukmejian to Representative Toni Cuelho in early June has come to light. Toni Cuelho is that congressman who has sponsored the project about Genocide in the House of Representatives. In this letter, Dukmejian insists that the Armenian Genocide did take place. "Our duty is to reveal the truth, writes Dukmejian. If the world should ignore these things, despots would do the same actions. In this way, History would repeat itself. Hitler's question "who remembers the massacre of the Armenians" should never be forgotten. That is the reason why I support the Bill. You may use this letter in any way you like, in the interest of the plan you are preparing".

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FRENCH PAPER: 'ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC FRONT' TO REPLACE ASALA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 16 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Writing in LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, a supplement of LE MONDE. Judith Peirera states that the ASALA era has come to an end and that the era of the Democratic Front has begun. She says that Asala has lost its force for a variety of reasons, such as the occupation of Lebanon by Israel and the application of Martial Law in Turkey. These measures placed ASALA before an impasse because having taken the side of the opponents of Arafat, it had also antagonized Fatah. The carnage at Orly brought an end to all. In its place, the front called The Democratic Front, made up of the Armenian National Movement in Paris and a number of socialist groups in England and the United States started to gather strength. This organization holds the view that the present phase of the armed struggle should be reinforced by a powerful political organization. The Front insists that ASALA lacks political sense and its political goal is not sufficiently clear.

The Democratic Front is critical also of ASALA's relations with the Soviet Union. All the hopes of the Organization are tied to setting up a serious political organization during the coming five years, within Turkey and the Middle East, considered as "occupied territories."

12364
CSO: 4605/94

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH PAPER: GREECE HAS COMPLETELY SPOILED ASALA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 3 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] MILLIYET writes today: "The kindly attitude shown by the Greek Government towards the Armenian terrorist organization ASALA has reached "dangerous" proportions for Turkey.

Posters have been placed by ASALA in the streets of the Capital, Athens, which say that "Turkey will be held accountable," "The events of 1915 will not be forgotten," "Revolution is the only way to liberate lands under Turkish occupation." The remarkable fact is that these slogans are being placed unrestrained and after the necessary permission has been obtained from the competent authorities. The slogans are in English, Arabic and Armenian. It is stressed that the Armenian terrorist organization ASALA has so far given "43 martyrs." The emblem of the organization is a hand holding a machinegun, and a torch.

In Greece until now, the initials of "The Armenian Youth Organization of Greece" and "The Armenian National Organization of Greece" had been used. It is the first time that the initials of ASALA have been hung. Those responsible for the organization show the photos of 28 people and add that they have been the victims of attacks carried out in Turkey and abroad. They also show photos taken during the attacks.

In this manner, Athens proves that it stands together with forces hostile to Turkey. This course of action followed by Greece is qualified as a "dangerous development."

12364
CSO: 4605/96

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BARRY ZORTIAN APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF 'GENOCIDE COMMITTEE'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 17 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Barry Zortian, who was discharged from his important post in an American firm which had hired him upon Turkish intervention to set up a pro-Turkey lobby, has been appointed President of the Genocide Committee by the Armenian National Council.

The job of the "Genocide Committee" is to try and make the House of Representatives and the Senate accept 24 April as "Day of Remembrance of the organized massacre of Armenians by Turks in 1915." So far, the Committee has passed two projects of resolution on this subject but last time the Government intervened and prevented voting on them. It will be remembered that Barry Zortian occupied an important position in the American firm Grey & Company until Turkey commissioned it to organize a pro-Turkey lobby. Then TERCUMAN revealed that an Armenian Barry Zortian had a responsible position in a firm hired by Turkey to conduct pro-Turkey activities. Whereupon Turkey intervened, considering the presence of an Armenian in that firm as inappropriate. The firm acquiesced and Barry Zortian was discharged from his post.

12364
CSO: 4605/95

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARA ANNOUNCES 'FAILURE OF ISTANBUL OPERATION'

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 7 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] PARIS, 5 (AFP) on Wednesday, the "Armenian Revolutionary Army" announced that one of its operations planned in Constantinople "had failed" and that two of its members had perished as a result of it.

In a communication with the AFP Office in Paris, the spokesman for the ARA confirmed that the car explosion in Constantinople during the night of Sunday to Monday was caused by one of its operations in preparation, during which two of its members had perished. The spokesman reiterated on this occasion, that his organization will pursue the fight against the Turkish Government "until the realization of the legitimate rights of the Armenian people and the liberation of the Armenian historic territories occupied by Turkey".

12364
CSO: 4605/4

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

LEBANESE ARMENIANS CAUTIONED TO BE AWARE OF 'SUBVERSIVE ACTS'

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 7 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation of Lebanon, the Executive Body of the Social Democratic Hentchag party of Lebanon and the Regional Committee of the Democratic Liberal party of Lebanon condemn by the present declaration the subversive acts directed at national, organizational and individual establishments that took place in Beirut in recent days.

The Armenian national parties state that such acts will not succeed to undermine the foundations of the Armenian community in Lebanon nor will they disrupt the national solidarity realized during the ten years of war in Lebanon.

We are certain that our people know full well that such acts of subversion, rumors of all kinds and even declarations are intended to shake the faith of the Armenians in the Lebanese fatherland.

Once again therefore, the Armenian parties appeal to the Armenians of Lebanon to strive with greater steadfastness than before and with Armenian determination, for the preservation and prosperity of this community which is one of the basic communities of Lebanon and a vital entity of the Armenian Diaspora.

ARF Central Committee of Lebanon
SD Hentchag party Executive Body of Lebanon
DL party Regional Committee of Lebanon

12364
CSO: 4605/3

ARMENIAN GROUP IN TEHRAN WAS TO ASSASSINATE TURKISH ENVOY

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 13 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] It has been disclosed that documents have been discovered about an assassination attempt planned by Armenians against Turkish ambassador in Tehran Ismet Birsel last week. Iranian authorities have stated that a search of the headquarters of an Armenian group called "Supporters of Mesrob Mashdots" uncovered a plan to assassinate the Turkish ambassador as well as other documents.

According to the information obtained, the terrorist group carries the name of the man who invented the Armenian alphabet. The group is also reported to have drawn up plans to protest against the pressures brought against Armenian schools by the Khomeyni government.

Turkish Foreign Ministry sources confirmed the reports about the developments in Tehran and said: "Measures had already been taken in Iran to protect Turkish officials following Armenian terrorist acts in March and April. In response to these latest developments, we and the Iranian government have intensified those measures."

Following the unearthing of the "Mesrob Mashdots" group, the Tehran press published articles deplored Armenian terrorism. According to statements by Iranian official organizations, one of the captured documents alleges that the pressures and restrictions imposed on Armenian schools in Iran are the result of pressures brought by Turkey against the Iranian government.

The document also alleges that Turkey is applying pressure on the Armenians by using trade agreements with Iran.

There exists disagreement between Iranian-Armenians and the Khomeyni government because while religion in schools was taught in Armenian under the Shah, the present government requires it to be taught in Farsi.

Meanwhile, it is reported that Armenian terrorist groups are being exploited by some unidentified powers. Turkish diplomatic circles have disclosed that Iranian-Armenians make large contributions to the war [as published].

9588
CSO: 4605/9

TURKISH PAPER: ARMENIANS INTEND TO ESTABLISH 'GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 17 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Nejati Doghru, the Washington correspondent of GUNES reports that exactly eleven years after the first assassination of a Turkish diplomat in the U.S., the Armenians were now trying to set up in the same country a "Government in Exile" and acquire diplomatic status.

It is well known that Armenian terrorism reached its peak with the carnage at Orly. Since then, it appears that the Armenians have decided to use terrorism as an indirect means while concentrating their efforts towards the goal of acquiring diplomatic status by founding a "Government in Exile".

This is a long term project whose first phase was the decision taken by the House of Representatives and the Senate. At present, the Armenians are doing all they can to have their views incorporated in Paragraph 30 of the UN Genocide Report.

This activity of the Armenians reminds one of what the Jews did after World War II. It was in this manner that the Jews demanded war reparation from the Germans.

Washington diplomatic circles, recalling the decisions made with regard to April 24, point out that Turkey should not count on President Reagan. President Reagan can veto a Congressional resolution three times only, after that he is obliged to ratify it. The same sources remind that Turkey should therefore work within the Congress to prevent such a resolution from being sent to the President.

12364
CSO: 4605/2

OPPOSITION ROUNDLY DENOUNCES CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY LAW

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Aug 84 p 7

/Article by Mahmud Khalil, Ahmad al-Kinani, Mayisah Hafiz, Mari Ya'qub and 'Abdallah Yusuf: "All Parties Are against the Continuation of the Emergency Law"/

/Text/ We Are against the Law

Mr 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, organization secretary and assistant secretary general of the Labor Party, says:

"There are negative results that arise from the emergency law. From the social standpoint, the ruling regime could use it, for example in the Ministry of the Interior, to arrest anyone without a charge. This of course will provoke unrest of chaos, disturbances, fear and terror.

"The ruling regime could use it to settle scores, which of course means a disruption in social relations among people and a lack of confidence in the ruling regime.

"From the political standpoint, the Emergency Law could be exploited to repress people's freedoms, especially freedom of expression; the best proof of that are the heretical ideas which the Ministry of the Interior fabricated, by using the emergency law, to the effect that party meetings should take place in closed locations, in order to preserve security. It is also exploited in obstructing the provisions of the judiciary, as happened with its use in preventing the holding of the human rights conference which was to be held in 'Abidin last 19 February, in accordance with a judiciary ruling, and brandishing the emergency law.

"In addition, civilized countries, which we are seeking to keep up with, use these laws only in a state of war.

"From the economic standpoint, as long as the law exists it extends to restrict people's freedoms and Egyptian citizens, especially intellectuals, could be compelled to flee Egypt. The emigration of thousands of workers

from Egypt is the best proof. On the other hand, this will keep investors from feeling stability and confidence, and consequently they will not participate in investment projects.

"As for the claim the minister of the interior and the prime minister make that the law will be applied only in the case of eliminating terror, if that is true it must be stipulated officially, which is what the Socialist Labor Party demanded in the last session of parliament. If it is officially stipulated that the purpose is to fight terror, we will not object.

"However, in case a law to resist terror is presented in the People's Assembly, the Labor Party's position regarding such a law will be in favor of a law which does not infringe on people's freedoms. It cannot declare a definite response now until it has read it."

Restrictions on Freedom

Sayyid Rustam, member of the higher executive committee of the Labor Party and the People's Assembly, said, "The extension of this law for the fourth year is to be rejected in form and substance from the outset. I believe that the National Party government will come before the People's Assembly to demand that the emergency law be extended another, fourth year, although I have heard from some officials that this "body will not be fully formed and that the state of emergency will be abrogated this year."

Sayyid Rustam added, "The emergency law contains restrictions on citizens' freedoms. I would like to say that the ordinary law, and the law on government security, exist and that the ordinary law has amendments concerning the bearing of arms which can deal with people who do not bear arms. These existing laws and powers could enable the minister of the interior to carry out his role. Objecting to the emergency law does not mean that we encourage terror or the use of force, but we do consider that the constitution says that a state of emergency can be imposed in a state of war or when disturbances occur domestically, or general disasters occur. However, here we are imposing a state of emergency without any motive or justification! For the record, the continued imposition of a state of emergency in the country has affected tourist and investment activity in Egypt!"

A law To Combat Terror Is Preferable

Dr Milad Hanna, chairman of the housing committee in the People's Assembly, began his statement by saying "I am in favor of absolutely abrogating the emergency law, and the present situation does not call for the continued extension of the application of this law for a fourth year. Although I appreciate that the government has not used this law, its existence in itself creates a general atmosphere in administration and helps it use it, which makes policemen seize this opportunity to strip away individuals' freedoms on the claim that that is in keeping with the law. In addition, the presence of the law supports the administration's power in dealing with the people."

As regards the law to combat terror which the government intends to issue as an alternative to the emergency law, Dr Milad Hanna said, "Laws to combat terror exist in the countries of Europe, although all bodies which support freedoms reject them and stand against them. We also reject this law. The government must submit this law to public opinion for discussion soon, before it is presented to the People's Assembly. I personally will vote against this law in the event it is submitted to the People's Assembly, because I am working in the framework of the legitimate order. In the event the People's Assembly gives its agreement to it, the opposition parties must form a front to stand against the law and reject it, and that can take place only if there is a public opinion which rejects it and stands against it. The parties can also stand against the law by having the committee on the defense of freedoms oppose it and defend the people who are damaged by it."

The Law Is a Hanging Sword

Lutfi Wakid, secretary of the central committee of the Grouping Party, says:

"There was no justification for the emergency law's existence from the beginning, and I reject having it continue in force for a fourth year since all the laws that have appeared in recent years on the pretext of protecting political security are in themselves methods of repression which go beyond reasonable bounds. As for the statement that it will be used only when needed, the mere existence of this law, even assuming that it is not used, is a sword hanging over the necks of citizens and constantly threatening them. It also has its bad psychological effects. The measures that were used in the People's Assembly elections entailed much arbitrariness, regardless of whether or not this law existed. The protestation that it has not been used is not to deny that its presence will be used to terrorize citizens when it is not exercised.

"Whether or not the People's Assembly agrees to continue the emergency law in force, the Grouping Party has its clear position against the law. In any event, anyone who agrees to the extension of this law must bear historic responsibility before the Grouping and history.

"Regarding the law to combat terror, I have not studied it, and I cannot comment on something I have not studied. In the event the People's Assembly gives agreement to passing the law to combat terror, we will resort to every legal and legitimate means to cancel the negative aspects in it. We are in favor of combatting terror but we are against terror from any party, even if that party is the government."

No to the Emergency Law

Dr Rif'at al-Sa'id, assistant secretary general of the Grouping Party, says: "We object to the emergency law in principle, not for a first year or for a fourth one. From the beginning we were against having the country governed by emergency laws. We believe that there is enough, and more than enough in the ordinary law and, if it is said that the emergency laws were passed to

resist terror, we believe that the ordinary laws by themselves will guarantee that terror is resisted. It has been said that the emergency laws will be applied only in cases where violence is used, but we say that their very existence creates a state of fear among citizens and gives the authorities a situation where they are able to put pressure on citizens and terrorize them. Moreover, we reject all attempts to write emergencies into law through new laws which are considered to be a continuation of the state of emergency, because they are passed in order to be permanent. As all experience has stressed, violence is not resisted by going beyond the bounds of ordinary laws but by respecting and guaranteeing all citizens' rights of expression. The eruption of violence in September 1981 came about in the context of types of emergency which did not prevent violence, and thus we, from our position of concern for this nation, and even from our position of rejection of violence as a means for acting, reject the emergency law and reject its extension and conversion into law. We call on all national and democratic forces to join in an alliance to create a front which will dictate government without emergency and without exceptional laws and dictate the need to abrogate all laws restrictive of freedoms and all laws of ill repute. We do not need further laws restricting citizens' freedoms."

Ordinary Existing Laws Are Sufficient Against Cases of Terror

Sabri Mubdi, member of the Lawyers' Union council, asserts "First, before we talk about the gist of the matter, we must agree that no one has the right to arrogate more concern for this nation's security to himself than anyone else. We are all partners in this obligation.

"After that, we come to the issue of the continued declaration of the state of emergency. On this subject we can state that the justifications for declaring it in accordance with the law, are basically determined by the outbreak of a state of war or the outbreak of a state warning of a danger that threatens the society. Any reading of the actual state of the Arab Republic of Egypt must lead to a conclusion whose gist is that all justification for a continued state of emergency is absent; security has reached a state of stability and solidity. The best proof of that is that Egypt went through a time which was charged with political tension before the election campaign but nothing happened to infringe the state of security stability. I am not in favor of the argument which holds that there is no harm in a continued state of emergency as long as its provisions are used only against terror groups. This argument is to be rejected on three points:

"First, the ordinary laws that exist are sufficient to cope with any state of terror or threat to security and stability.

"Second, the outbreak of a state of emergency will create a psychological state which is embodied in a sense of instability, and this sort of sense represents a factor threatening the movement of capital, be it domestic or foreign.

"Third, the stability of the democracy Egypt is going through makes it inevitable that all obstacles must be removed from its path, and the exceptional

laws, first of which is the emergency law, stand at the forefront of these obstacles. The protection of Egypt must first of all be consigned to the people, who are confident in their freedom and democracy before anything else and above everything else."

There Is No Terror in Our Country

In the opinion of Mustafa Kamil Murad, chairman of the Liberal Party, "The emergency law is truly an irritating one, since it restricts the citizens' political and intellectual freedom. We hope that the government will abrogate it, since there is no justification for it to remain. Security is stable and the political parties are pursuing their activity of supporting democracy. Nothing has happened in the last 3 years that would call for putting this law into effect and consequently retaining it now, since the law on criminal procedures and penalties has enough in it to maintain security in the country.

"If circumstances that call for a state of emergency so require, it is possible to declare it at any time when that is called for, without having recourse to this sort of law.

"In addition, is it possible to cope with cases resembling what they call states of terror by law? We do not agree that it is. We are in a country which is totally remote from what is called terror."

Defining the Meaning of Terror

Hamdayn Sabahi says, "As we are on the eve of 6 October I do not imagine that the government will take any initiative to abrogate the emergency law. Most likely the government will keep it in force and as usual the government will resort to the method of arresting some people without expressing any real reasons, which will give a real justification for the continued existence of this sort of law.

"In my view, the existence of this sort of law greatly harms the government itself, whatever is said to the effect that this law will not be applied to any political figure. However, the presence of this sort of law means that there is a sword hanging over the neck of every political figure, regardless of his commitment or lack of commitment to the limits of the law."

Dr Hamdayn Sabahi went on to say, "As regards the law on terror, that depends on the definition of the meaning of terror. Is opposition to the government to be considered terror when the workers demanded their rights in the Saqr factory, for example, a number of months ago, was this incident to be considered terror? Examples of this are numerous. We as Nasirists are against this type of terrorist law. I imagine that it would be more proper for the government to set out a law which protects people from political thuggery or a law to combat prices instead of putting a sword over the necks of the people in the form of a law."

Islam Is the Solution

Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il said,

"I remember a statement which Maj Gen Hasan Abu Basha made to the People's Assembly; at that time he was minister of the interior, and he demanded that the emergency law be continued in force to October 1984 and defended the law on the argument that it helped the police thwart terrorist operations that had been conceived, likely, or chronic, through the stipulation the law made that it was legitimate to suspect citizens, arrest them and throw them in jail if a suspicion hovered about them which could be an illusion or fantasy. How many innocent people there are in prisons whose crimes were not investigated by the people who threw them in prison and who were not allowed to protest, although they were oppressed beyond the period of time determined by this strange law!"

"The elections took place in the context of this law and the police dealt with the people in accordance with this law. The people have been oppressed. The person who killed al-Sadat was an officer in the army. The people who were killed in the al-Sadat affair were killed, and the people have continued to be burned by the fire of this law to this day. How many times have we screamed against this law under the cupola! However, the majority of the ruling party did not consider that the people should have a right to freedom and did not consider that they should be stable and spared anxiety. I do not rule it out that this majority will approve the emergency law for a few years, no matter how much we might condemn it and scream out against it.

"This law puts President Mubarak's speeches on a totally different footing from the conduct of the investigator's office. How many young people have been called in on the charge that they were Wafdist or Labor Party members or something else, and how proficient did some officers become, and the facts concerning their terror and harrassment are in my possession, if they did not join the National Party! If we go to the People's Assembly we will be held accountable for something like this, and it is expected that it should be said that a minister should not be held accountable for what the People's Assembly has approved and there is no investigator except God.

"If God had not brought certain people up against one another, the world would have become corrupted.'

"Where does the people's role lie?

"Islam guarantees that terror is resisted. The prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, stated 'Let none of you form a position in which a man will be unjustly hit; curses are brought down on people whom he brought in when they do not defend him.'"

The Opportunity Is Now Available

Dr Muhammad al-Chazali says, "My opinion, in brief, is that the notion that the presence of a state of emergency is seizing the country is that the situation entails a perversion of rules and a violation of common knowledge.

"What cannot be doubted is that exceptions cannot be assumed to be the basis. The state of emergency was declared in the light of particular circumstances; this state of emergency ought to have been abrogated as soon as the situation which led to this law went away. For this reason, I consider that this law must be abrogated at the earliest available opportunity. In my opinion, the opportunity now exists to get rid of the emergency law.

"The ordinary laws guarantee both the government and the people security and stability. In my opinion, people who seek interpretations for violent events find that they increase in the framework of exceptional conditions and circumstances which the government imposes, as opposed to cases in which the law prevails; for example, at the beginning of al-Sadat's regime, when the principle of the sovereignty of the law prevailed, the government relaxed, the people relaxed and violent events diminished and were scarce.

"However, after al-Sadat suspended the law and the exceptional laws started to appear, security began to be disrupted and violent events started to increase. It is wrong for a person to imagine that emergency laws spread security throughout the country; emergencies obstruct security and do not help it prevail. The experience we have had is clear now.

"I believe that people who say that this law is aimed at certain extremist Islamic groups, some of whose members have been detained in prison, are not familiar with the tolerant nature of Islam. It is an appeal for wisdom and good exhortation. In seeking the interpretation of the history of the call to Islam, we find that no true Islamic proselytizer has used the technique of violence as a means of proselytization. Islam does not know violence and terror, but it knows forgiveness and tolerance."

It Serves Only the Parasites

Dr Nawwal al-Sa'dawi explains that the reason why the emergency law remains in force is that it continues to serve the interests of the parasitic (pro-liberation) class and their foreign partners.

What cannot be doubted is that social stability consists of balance among the political forces on the stage. Such balance can come about "democratically," where the people are organized or strong, making it mandatory that the government hold a logical dialogue with it and not through the emergency law--a situation which has not come about in our country because of the people's organizational weakness and because of foreign economic and military dominance since Turkish rule, then the English, and finally the new forces, embodied in America and Israel.

In the course of al-Sadat's regime, foreign influence increased and along with that the dominance of the parasitic class increased; the struggle between this party and the people reached its climax when the Egyptian people went out on food demonstrations in January 1977 and army and police units went out into the streets.

The struggle ended with the assassination of al-Sadat, and Mubarak began his term with some statements, the most important of which was "social justice."

The attempt to achieve justice did not gladden the parasites and their foreign partners, principally Israel and America; this irritation was embodied in the threat to withdraw money from the banks, hints at failing to send economic or military aid, and the perpetration of crises or explosions here or there to establish the ability to protect the people they put in power from danger. This force still dominates, and the forces of the people and the opposition parties are still without real power. In spite of that, the people are capable of repeating the food demonstrations, and no one in the science of politics can predict the force of the people when they are hungry. For this reason, the emergency law remains to this day.

According to the theory of the science of politics, the ruling authorities will abrogate the emergency law only when the power of the people and the opposition parties is greater than that of the parasitic class and their foreign partners. The people are still burdened with other laws such as the law on elections, the law on impropriety and so forth. If the government wants to strike out at the parasitic class and its partners, let it give the people some freedoms and open the door to all the groups of the people to form their own political parties. When the government hesitates in abrogating these laws and the emergency law, that gives proof that the balance of power is still in favor of the parasitic classes and groups.

The National Party Is in Favor of the State of Emergency

Dr Muhammad Ahmad 'Abdallah, chairman of the National Party parliamentary group in Alexandria and chairman of the foreign relations committee in the People's Assembly, said, "The emergency law was issued in 1958 and abrogated in May 1980, then brought back again with the assassination of al-Sadat. The purpose of this law is to confront all terrorist elements which threaten the security and safety of the country and political and economic stability. It is in the interests of democracy and in the interests of all, because terror has everyone, opposition and majority alike, as its target. This law has not been applied against any politician, newspaper or opinion in President Husni Mubarak's term.

"The basic guarantee is that this law will not be used to repress the thinking or freedom of citizens, because we are now living in a democracy and feel it and its stability. Reductions and amendments to the law have been introduced on this basis and there is no longer any room for fear." Regarding his opinion as a political official and a member of the National Party secretariat general, he says, "Three basic guarantees are offered to the citizen to give him confidence that the government will not use the emergency law against him in an arbitrary fashion. These are: the full freedom of the judiciary and the sovereignty of the law, the experience of practice in past years, and the democratic climate which exists now."

Dr 'Abdallah added, "I do not know whether the emergency law will remain in force for a fourth year or not. The security bodies have the final say. In my personal opinion, there must be unanimity that we should be concerned over the stability of the country and its safety and security. I am on the side of the security bodies if they consider that the emergency law should remain in force, as long as that is in the interests of democracy!"

With respect to what some people say about substituting the emergency law with the law to combat terrorism, Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah said, "We must not be hampered by terms and be the prisoners of the complex of names, because it is possible that the law to combat terrorism could be the same as the emergency law, with a difference in terms. In addition, no drafts of a law on this matter have been presented to the People's Assembly yet."

Finally, the chairman of the People's Assembly foreign relations committee said, "If we compare the emergency law that exists in Egypt with the law to combat terrorism in the most deep-rooted democratic countries, such as England and America, we will find that the emergency law is more democratic." He pointed out that India applies the emergency law as soon as there are internal disruptions!

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GOVERNMENT POLICY ON TABA ATTACKED BY WAFD

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Aug 84 p 1, 7

[Article by Mustafa Shardi: "They Went Alone to Taba"]

[Text] Last week, I asked that we all go to Taba: the minister of foreign affairs, the editors-in-chief of both government and party newspapers and any other government or popular official following the case.

I asked that we all go to Taba together for two reasons:

First, to understand together what is happening, to stand before the truth where lying is difficult and falsification is impossible and where the government and its spokesmen and writers can prove the falseness of the incident published by AL-WAFD, which stands by what it said. AL-WAFD can prove the soundness of its position and can announce to the people that it was telling the truth and the government was the one that lied.

Second, the incident of Colonel Zaydan's wire that added a new piece of land to the area of contention in Taba has unleashed an extremely important and dangerous issue, the issue of planned and premeditated informational blackout that has been exercised against the people of Egypt for 30 years and has generated disasters and calamities that exceed many times over its mistakes and sins which it tried to hide and cover up and that bred power gangs, myrmidon squadrons, criminal cliques and pockets of social, economic and political corruption. Rather, the Zaydan wire incident at Taba, and I reiterate that it was merely a consequence of a wrong decision issued by a well-meaning police colonel, could have been contained and rooted out on the spot had Egypt's "free national" press performed its national and journalistic role by bringing the details of the incident to the people and coupling it with a prompt and effective diplomatic initiative to regain Egypt's right immediately, instead of a blackout, instead of silence and instead of secret and voiceless contacts. Israel and others are well aware that he who whispers in secret is afraid to raise his voice lest his words reach some ears he does not wish for them to hear. There is nothing easier than to bear down heavily on the fearful, Israel has taken advantage of this weak point to legitimize the situation and has exploited this passing mistake, converting it into an established and lasting situation.

This serious issue, that of informational blackout and of burying most of our disasters in a cloud of silence under the pretext that the people cannot bear to know the facts and that it is better to keep the Egyptian public under control by constantly anesthetizing it, is long overdue for a solution. Thirty years of blackout, falsification and anesthetization are enough. It is as though the people of Egypt have been destined to live forever under an oxygen tent and under the control of mandators.

What would have happened had the Zaydar wire incident been announced at once? What would have happened had the foreign affairs minister responded to the incident published in AL-WAFD by a three to four line statement saying: "The incident is true and is one more example of Israel's mistakes and aggressive and expansionist practices in the Arab region. Egypt will regain this piece of land, along with the rest of the contested Taba territory, through persistent diplomatic efforts."

Last Thursday, I asked that we all go to Taba to ascertain who is telling the truth and who is hiding behind falsehood and slander. Three days before I wrote this article, I went to Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the People's Assembly, to inform him of my wish to visit the Taba area as a member of the People's Assembly--an inquiry in this regard had been submitted to the prime minister--and I asked him for a letter or an official note to the Egyptian authorities in the South Sinai Governorate asking them not to place any kind of obstacles, the kind with which we are all familiar, to stop my visit to the Taba area. I felt that Dr Rif'at Mahjub was surprised by my request, but he did not turn it down. He only said that he would discuss the matter.

When the 3 days passed and I did not receive a reply from the People's Assembly president, I decided to mention the invitation to visit the Taba area in the pages of AL-WAFD, not to embarrass and defy, since we are not in a competition or a contest, but because we are facing a serious national situation. Either the AL-WAFD story is found to be mere allegation, and we do not have the courage to admit our mistake as we have the courage to level charges, or else the government must admit the facts of the incident and present a clear and convincing justification to be announced to the owners of the land, to the claimants and to the masters of the country.

What happened after that?

We were surprised by a TV and press media detachment, composed of strictly government information agencies, going on a foray all alone with the aim of perpetuating the policy of informational deception and eagerly covering up the aggression and new crime of usurpation Israel is trying to pull off, just so it will not have to admit an incident uncovered by the people through an opposition newspaper.

It is the same old mentality that wants to monopolize the microphone, the screen and the writers, no matter what name is used. The mentality of one idea and one party that has not yet realized that we are living in a different phase that calls for multiple ideas and differing viewpoints, now that we have chosen the multi-party system and democracy as our only path.

I do not wish to discuss what I saw on TV and what the government press published because it is not worthy of debate. I issue it up to the people to judge because, although the investigations that were published in the four newspapers that made the trip to Taba look like a class in dictation and were an attempt to infuse certain information, the disparity and inconsistency of these newspapers are enough to invalidate the results of the informational foray, both from the standpoint of TV and the press.

However, what truly provoked aversion and disgust was the preface on AL-AHRAM's third page which said:

"Despite the fact that the opposition newspapers are the ones that a few days ago cast doubt over the concentration of Egyptian forces in Taba in the same positions as when the area was taken over from Israel on 25 April 1982, these same newspapers did not bother to send their correspondents when the Ministry of Defense a few days ago invited them to visit the area as part of the large media delegation that included representatives from all the various national newspapers and radio and TV, to learn first hand what is going on in the Taba valley."

To what new low has AL-AHRAM sunk with such falsehood and slander? And how did this newspaper, which we considered respectable, ascertain that we had received an invitation and turned it down. I was expecting AL-AHRAM to correct, or at least apologize for this lie, but it did not, unfortunately.

How does the situation look now?

At the beginning of the Zaydan wire incident, I was surprised by the failure to announce it the minute it happened. Now I am perplexed at such intent on falsehood and slander. I had hoped, and still do, that the incident was truly a lie. My imagination led me to fancy that Israel was trying to alleviate some of the Egyptian opposition pressure on the National Party government by agreeing to remove the Zaydan wire that blocks that triangular piece of land adjoining Taba that was clearly visible on TV and in the press foray photos.

I felt perplexed because we are almost passing over the third party, the usurper and the aggressor, to engage in a domestic media war between the government press and the opposition press, a war that should have been directed at the aggressor's trench instead of raging among the sons of the one Egyptian trench.

Taba is almost turning into a domestic war, while Israel is watching, laughing and rubbing its hands with pleasure and delight.

It is clear that the government is caught between two fires. It suffers from an overriding will to deny, at any cost, any incident the opposition presents to public opinion. However, in the face of this incident in particular, it feels that the price is more dear, rather it is a dreadful price historically. Israel can exploit the Egyptian government's denials and insistence that Tel Aviv did not commit an aggression, did not usurp, did not overstep the peace agreement's terms and did not pursue any new aggression or even an attempted

aggression against Egyptian territory to its own advantage on the international level so that the new piece of land may remain a captive of the Zaydan wire, with the hope of annexing it in the future to the Egyptian piece of land which is under contention, exactly like the pickpocket who cannot be charged with anything because the bus riders deny that he picked their pockets.

I imagine the government is like one who is surprised by loud knocks on the door of a room where he is not supposed to be and, out of fear, jumps out the window to flee from the misdemeanor or simple trouble to the disaster of suicide.

Therefore, I feel that the national necessities that obligated us to announce the Colonel Zaydan wire incident and Israel's attempt to usurp yet another piece of land in Taba, which is, by the way, a true incident and we stand by all its details which we published, these same necessities obligate us now to ease our siege of the government for the time being so that it will not persist in rushing into categorical denials. Thank God that the government, in its attempt to get out of this siege imposed by this incident, has not used terms such as "It is a fallacious incident in total and in detail" and "completely unfounded information," because Israel would have turned such unequivocal statements into documents in its hands to wave in the Egyptian government's face and to use against the Egyptian negotiator at the negotiating table. Rather, the government used calmer and more flexible terms, particularly in the foreign ministry's communique, and in the TV and media report elastic terms like "inaccurate facts" and "far from the truth." We thank God that the government used terms to give itself the chance to ease the public pressure domestically and to reserve the opportunity to maneuver and to stick to its rights in its future confrontation with Israel.

National necessity obligates us to ease the siege and to stop knocking on the door so that there will be no jumping out the window that will leave the knocker with a feeling of guilt that were it not for his constant knocking, the disturbed and fearful subject would not have committed suicide.

We have a date with the People's Assembly where a fact-finding commission can set the matter straight and announce to the people what is fact, what is falsehood and what is slander in the Taba case.

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DIVERSE ELEMENTS OF UPCOMING GOVERNMENT BUDGET REVIEWED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3125, 31 Aug 84 pp 4-7

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Next Budget: Its Basic Features"]

[Text] What does the new budget mean?

What are its most prominent features?

What is its position on the public and private sectors likely to be?

What is the fate of subsidies? How can the affluent groups, at least, pay the equivalent of the volume of services they receive so that the government can bear the burden of those of its citizens who are not affluent? What will the position on bread be?

The budget is still being subjected to internal discussion, the conclusion of which may perhaps be the meeting President Mubarak will hold today (Wednesday) with the economic group in the presence of Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, prime minister, and Dr Rif'at Mahjub, chairman of the People's Assembly.

Although some issues have not yet been resolved, it is possible for us to state that the basic features of the next budget have been completed. We are faced with a budget which constitutes a new link in the broad reform process which is aimed at correcting the course of the Egyptian economy in favor of its productive sectors, in the public and private sectors both, and at the same time retaining subsidy coverage in order to protect the broadest groups of the Egyptian masses.

The Budget and the Public Sector

In spite of the numerous circumstances that have caused the volume of revenues to be lower than expected, most importantly, perhaps, the drop in oil prices, the general budget has managed to provide the requisite volume of investments for productive activity in its two basic focal areas, agriculture and industry, in a manner which will guarantee that the goals of the development plan, which underline the need to raise agricultural production levels by no less than 3 percent and the level of industrial production by a

rate close to 10 percent, are met, so that Egypt will realize an overall rate of development which will be no less than 7.5 percent. Otherwise, it will be out of the question for Egypt to keep abreast of the terrifying magnitude of the population increase, which now comes to about a million new mouths in less than a year.

According to budget figures concerning investment, 5,365,000,000 pounds have been allocated to public and government sector investments this year and the public sector alone will assume close to 4,865,000,000 pounds of these investments, in accordance with a policy which stresses:

First, the continued rejuvenation of factories and development of production methods within the public sector on advanced technological bases and the grant of full priority to replacement and renovation, which is now entering its third year, so that all the means of production in the public sector will have been renovated by the end of the current 5-year plan.

Consequently, 21 percent of these investments will go to replacement and renovation projects this year, with emphasis on the provision of new impetus to ongoing replacement and renovation projects in the spinning plants in al-Mahallah and Kafr al-Dawwar, the cement plants, and numerous other machinery industries, in order to raise their productive capacity and bring their production to a level which can compete with foreign production, since the use of the phrase "Made in Egypt" will meet with the desired response among Egyptian citizens only if this industry is provided with a reasonable level of quality, which will make Egyptian production desirable on its own account, above and beyond feelings of national attachment, which might be an auxiliary factor.

Second, the completion of projects which are unfinished or projects on which construction began then was stopped, at the end of the sixties, following the 1967 war, or in the course of the seventies when commercial activity was encouraged at the expense of productive activity, especially since these projects now represent idle capacity, not to speak of increasing cost burdens as the years go by, as a result of the constant increase in world prices.

Consequently, this year 61 percent of the volume of public sector investments (4,865,000,000 pounds) will be spent on completing these projects, which are embodied in a number of cement plants and electricity stations, above and beyond some medical service centers, most prominently the 'Ayn Shams University Treatment Hospital.

Third, emphasis, in new investments, on projects which will help solve some important Egyptian problems such as the housing problem and the problem of the lack of fertility in Egyptian soil. Consequently, most of the new projects will be in the area of the fertilizer and construction industries, a number of new cement and clay brick factories, reinforcement iron and glass, because, unless these industries are present, it will be difficult to attain real progress in stopping the acceleration of the housing problem in Egypt.

We can also say that in spite of the tremendous volume of investments which are going to the public sector for renovating its machinery or completing its unfinished projects, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali's cabinet will pursue a hard line policy toward signs of laxity in a number of areas of the public sector, whose profits did not come to more than 300 million pounds, or an average of barely 1 million pounds per company in this year's budget in spite of the tremendous number of projects (375 companies).

While studies have confirmed that the losses of some of these companies can be ascribed to disruption in their internal financing structures, the surplus of labor or the prices of some products, which have been frozen at the limits of the social price for the sake of broader segments of our people, the studies have also confirmed that laxity, mismanagement, the lack of decisiveness and the absence of scientific oversight for many years are all factors that have helped bring the public sector's surplus down to this modest figure in spite of its enormous investments!

I can assert that in the light of the long discussions which have taken place alongside the study of this year's budget the basic task of the public sector's new bodies is to pursue the reasons for losses in the companies which do not realize a surplus through a comprehensive tabulation which will start as soon as the new budget goes into effect.

The Budget and the Private Sector

We can say that in regard to investments, the budget is still hoping that the private sector will undertake a volume of investment totalling about 1,625,000,000 pounds this year, an increase of 200 million pounds over the volume of the private sector's contribution last year.

Although the volume of private sector investments in the past 2 years of the plan did not reach the levels the plan had hoped for, there is great hope that the private sector will emerge from its hesitancy and aversion, especially since current economic policies stress that Egyptian development strategy must be founded on a firm philosophy arising from the private sector's right to contribute.

The budget, in regard to investments, anticipates that 50 percent of the private sector's investments will be directed toward the area of housing, 20 percent toward the area of industry and 10 percent toward the area of the reclamation of new land. To encourage this tendency, the budget will allocate the sum of 450 million pounds for housing loans at a 4 percent rate of interest to provide easy facilities by which private sector contractors may borrow and enable them to finance the activities of constructing housing units in the governorates. The new budget will also allocate 300 million pounds in easy loans at 7 percent interest for persons and companies engaged in the reclamation of new lands.

However, more important than all this is expansion of the higher investment committee's activity, so that its role will not be confined to giving agreement to private sector investment projects but rather will extend to monitoring the execution of these projects in actual conditions, with the goal

of reducing the obstacles confronting their owners during the construction and production stages. Another of the higher investment committee's tasks will be to prepare a list of the projects by which the private sector might be guided in its new investment activity, in the light of the needs of society.

I can assert that when the discussion of the budget started last week at his first meeting with the economic group under the chairmanship of Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the prime minister, President Mubarak requested that a dialogue be initiated with all the private sector bodies and their institutions, as represented by federations of businessmen and investors, private sector banks and chambers of commerce and industry, so that all these people might come to realize that the government's position on the private sector is a firm, strategic one. Egypt's experience in the sixties affirmed the impossibility of relying on the public sector alone to create comprehensive, balanced development while also affirming the impossibility of relying on the government in every productive activity, not to speak of the need for the government to protect every private sector productive activity, since this activity means strengthening Egyptian capability, reducing reliance on imports and participating positively in the attainment of independence of national decisionmaking.

The Budget and Employees

The imbalance in Egypt's economic problem may have been exacerbated because at a time when total general budget revenues, whether from taxes, customs, income from the canal and oil, the public sector surplus and tourist activity, according to this year's budget, do not come to about 10 billion pounds, wages alone will come to 6.3 billion pounds, in accordance with the budget figures.

To be specific, 3.2 billion pounds account for wages of government employees and the other 3.1 billion pounds account for the wages of people working in the economic authorities and the public sector.

Wages alone eat up more than two thirds the volume of general budget revenues, above and beyond the government's need for investment projects realizing annual growth rates of no less than 7.5 percent in order to stop the deterioration in the Egyptian standard of living and create a form of relative improvement while the population increase continues at a terrifying rate.

The exacerbation of the imbalance appears terrifying when the 1980 budget shows that the volume of wages in that period did not exceed 1.07 billion pounds. Nonetheless President Mubarak's directives were clear in this regard when the new budget was discussed, emphasizing the following facts:

First, the budget must make the assumption that subsidies will remain, as far as the overwhelming majority of the people are concerned, and that if this year's budget suffers from an anticipated shortage in revenues, compensation for such a shortage must not take place at the expense of the constant rights of employees of the government and the public sector to

subsidies, promotions, raises, or grants for the two holidays, which are now a fixed part of these people's income.

Second, the government's responsibility as far as the provision of new job opportunities for emerging generations must continue, especially since the ability of the two private and investment sectors is still limited, as far as the possibility of absorbing a large percentage of these people goes, and as a consequence it is not in the government's power to abandon all its responsibilities vis-a-vis these emerging generations. Therefore, the new budget will include job opportunities for more than 21,000 graduates this year.

The Budget and Subsidies

Although discussion of this subject is still underway and will continue at the second meeting President Mubarak will hold with the economic group Wednesday morning, which was preceded by other meetings of the economic group which went on all last week, some of which were attended by Dr Rif'at Mah-jub, chairman of the People's Assembly, the constant principle governing this ongoing discussion is:

First, subsidies will remain in the case of groups which are not affluent and must obtain their basic requirements without falling prey to the rise in prices. Consequently, the focus of the whole discussion is how one can choose ways of providing subsidies so that they will get to the people who are actually entitled to them.

Second, all new burdens must be imposed on the affluent groups in the society. The society is entitled to this from them, on behalf of groups which are weaker in terms of income and broader in terms of number, if social peace is to be attained. Consequently, participation by the affluent in the subsidy fund could be one means which will lead to the attainment of a degree of mutual support in a society which is suffering from increasing discrepancies in incomes.

Although the alternatives that have been raised are still under discussion, a number of questions have been brought up in the corridors during the general budget discussions, for example:

If 300,000 Egyptians now leave Egypt every year to spend summers abroad, would it hurt them greatly if they contributed to the subsidy fund through an increase of a few pounds in the exit tax?

If a corresponding number take their children to foreign schools for an education, would it be very harmful if these people contributed a limited percentage of the expenditures, which would be transferred to the subsidy fund for the sake of raising the educational level of broader groups of our people, each new academic year?

If there are people in the society whose affluence enables them to use special advanced model cars which require a special type of fuel of particular specifications, isn't it an unjustifiable burden for these people to obtain

this distinctive type of fuel under subsidy from the government, whose revenues are heavily burdened, especially since the government is not thinking of raising the price of ordinary types of fuel, so that that will not have an effect on the prices of freight, transportation and communications?

Since the volume of electricity consumption as far as the overwhelming majority of Egyptians are concerned does not come to more than 250 watts, wouldn't it be a form of social justice if the people who consume a greater amount pay non-subsidized prices for the volume of their consumption which is greater than that, just the added volume?

Is it reasonable that the prices for installing telephone lines should now remain within their current modest limits, in view of the increasing acceptance of the 1,000 pound surcharge? Hasn't it become necessary to distinguish between the prices of installing telephones in a massive investment organization or a successful medical clinic, and the prices of installing a telephone for an employee who in accordance with the burdens of his position must obtain a telephone for his home?

Although these are all just alternatives that are still being subjected to conversation and discussion, they all are committed to the basic principle -- no infringement on subsidies as far as the broad masses are concerned, with the affluent to contribute at least the equivalent of the cost of the services they get from the government so that the government can bear the burden of those of its citizens who are not affluent.

The Budget and Taxes

In this regard, we must also say that if social solidarity makes it mandatory that the affluent at least contribute the equivalent of the cost of the services they get, the general budget, in its new outlines, will not witness any change in the tax categories in effect now, which will remain as they are, although the government has stressed the need for a broader distribution of tax offices to collect what is owed the government.

Consequently, the source of all anticipated increases in tax receipts will not lie in the imposition of new taxes besides the current categories; rather, it will lie in strengthening the tax system's ability to prosecute people who do not pay what is owed the government.

Customs duties fall in the same category; Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali considers that the problem does not at all involve increasing customs groups but in realizing a greater degree of surveillance of customs revenues, because there really is, in certain locations, especially the seaports, some collusion between some employees, I do not say all employees, and some importers who avoid paying customs duties by methods which reach the point of fraud regarding the type and volume of the shipments coming in.

Perhaps the cases of evasion of customs duties on lumber which have proliferated recently have helped underline the possibility of raising customs receipts if these people all realize that they are squandering what is owed the society.

The Budget and Bread

In the context of the current discussions, the obvious tendency so far has been not to infringe on the price of bread; indeed, to the contrary, all opinions are focused on the need to work to improve the quality of bread, because improving its quality could indeed help reduce the consumption of it.

It appears to be a strange Egyptian anomaly that the volume of Egyptian per capita consumption of wheat should come to about 200 kilograms a year, which is the highest rate of consumption in the world, although it is acknowledged that the more a people's social level advances the more its bread consumption declines. In Egypt the opposite is happening! There is no explanation for this except that badly made bread means more consumption and at the same time more waste. No one eats any part of the bread-discs except the top, because on many occasions the discs are just inedible lumps of flour.

There is another strange anomaly whose grave dimensions we must be aware of from now on. Although the Egyptians, in terms of numbers, constitute less than 1 percent of the world's population, their share of the limited wheat surplus in the world, which does not come to more than 90 million tons, is greater than 5 percent; Egypt obtains 4 million tons of this surplus a year. It might not be in its power to obtain this amount in the future, especially with predictions that assert that the period to come will witness what economists now call the anticipated "wheat war" or the "wheat time bomb!"

This is in view of the intensity of the demand for wheat, and the paucity of its supply on world markets.

Egyptian economists believe that improving the quality of bread by improving its manufacture could at least help save a total of 200 million pounds a year out of 700 million pounds, which is the volume of the subsidies the government offers for bread each year.

Consequently, the new budget will include in its sections the allocation of 40 million pounds to be spent as subsidy aid to compensate bakery workers in the private sector for low wages, to act as an incentive to them to produce reasonable bread-discs which are not half-thrown into the garbage can.

The Budget and Government Austerity

When the discussion was held on alternatives to cover the gap between general budget revenues, which did not exceed 9.9 billion pounds, and the 17 billion pounds in spending required to keep up with the increase in wages, investment projects, housing and reform of the infrastructure of Egyptian society (utilities, sewers, roads, water, electricity and communications, which had been neglected because of the slowdown in the rates of renovation and replacement), President Mubarak stressed that while some austerity was required of the citizens, it was not in our power to ask it of the citizens before the citizens themselves felt that the government was opposed in all its conduct to anything that might constitute anything resembling luxury spending, on condition that the control of government spending not put

pressure on the level of performance, especially in departments which touch upon the interests of the masses.

In regard to this notion, agreement was reached on a specific number of measures.

The public relations budgets in all government departments were reduced by 20 percent.

Budgets for the entertainment of guests were reduced by the same percentage, provided that this reduction apply to everyone, from the budget of the President's Office to all the ministries.

The number of delegations traveling abroad has been reduced and their period of stay has been reduced by half.

A 10 percent reduction has been made in the value of the fuel used in government cars.

The sections on furnishing and electricity consumption have been reduced in all ministries.

In this context, also, agreement has been reached that Egypt's payment of the instalments and interest on its debts should be a priority subject which will not admit of any discussion, and consequently the new budget includes 1.6 billion pounds for the payment of all instalments of foreign and domestic loans and the interest on them to preserve the reputation of Egypt, which pays all its commitments on schedule.

What can we say at the end of this news analysis, now that the new budget is being given its final touches before going to the People's Assembly?

We can say that the coming budget constitutes a new link in an extensive process of reform which has the goal of correcting the course of the Egyptian economy in favor of production and consequently current development policies which give priority to productive activity by encouraging banks and investment institutions to charge into areas of productive activity, because the story of the Bank of Egypt and Tal'at Harb must not remain a unique one in the history of the Egyptian economy -- rather, that must be the ongoing character of these institutions' activity.

We can say that the new budget is taking bolder steps aggressively to address difficult, deep-rooted problems, such as the problems of utilities and ordinary housing, through concentration on construction materials projects and cement factories and through the aspiration the plan aims at, of bringing the number of housing units built this year to 160,000 so that the number of units which were built in the past 3 years will come to 460,000, a quantity which is in excess of the total housing units that were built in the period between 1970 and 1980.

We can say that the budget is trying to fill the wide gap between the shortage of revenues and the aspirations of the demands, by concentrating on

domestic and local means of financing, to lessen debt burdens. Consequently, the financing of 57 percent of the budget's general and investment segments will rely on local savings and 18 percent on the surplus from oil, the Suez Canal and exports, while limits on the use of foreign loans will be set at around 25 percent.

Here we must state that one of the most important resources which could have realized a great surplus for Egypt has been wasted; that is tourist activity. There is no reason for that except the frightfully excessive prices of hotels, furnished apartments and restaurants, in a manner which is in no way in keeping with the international increase, so that Cairo has become one of the most expensive capitals in the world as far as foreign tourists go.

Massive investments were made to build numerous hotels and many efforts were made in this area, but these efforts have all been buried under the burden of high prices, which have been inflated without any reasonable justification.

The Egyptians here are pursuing the approach of a person who slaughters a hen to get all its eggs at once. This is a short sighted view which has brought tourist activity in Egypt to an impasse which must be confronted.

If to that we add that there are 300,000 Egyptians going abroad for tourist purposes each year, the returns ultimately will be zero, since the people leaving will take out what the people coming in bring.

We can state, finally, that the current government has exerted massive efforts as it has prepared this year's budget so that deficit financing will not go beyond the limits of the previous budget in spite of the paucity of revenues and the aspirations of the demands. In other words, current monetary policies are still keeping a basic goal in view, which is to limit the money supply in order to reduce the burdens of inflation and its effect on the increasing rise in prices.

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FOREIGN OIL OPERATIONS IN EGYPT TO BE ENCOURAGED

Cairo MAYU in Arabic 10 Sep 84 p 7

[Article: "New Facilities For International Companies to Drill For Oil In Territorial Waters; Spending on Exploration Operations Doubled 120 Times in 30 Years"]

[Text] Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, asked that foreign oil companies be encouraged to search for oil in territorial waters over 100 meters deep in the Mediterranean and Red Seas and the Gulf of Suez. This is while speeding up drilling operations for natural gas with a view to increasing its use as fuel for factories and homes and as an alternative for petroleum products and butagaz in a way that would save on foreign currency and raise crude oil exports.

The minister of petroleum and mineral resources emphasized that the strategy of the Egyptian petroleum industry is a fixed strategy, especially in encouraging the foreign companies that have shouldered 85 percent of oil exploration investments for the past 10 years. Spending on exploration operations jumped from \$5 million in 1952 to about \$600 million in 1983, that is to say, it doubled 120 times. At present, 61 petroleum discoveries are being evaluated, 47 of which are crude oil and 14 natural gas. These discoveries are the result of a rise in the number of exploratory wells, which number 421, that have yielded 79 discoveries, 18 of which have been converted into oil producing fields, with the rest still under evaluation.

MAYU presents the details of the exciting oil exploration contest in Egypt between foreign oil companies.

Geologist Husayn Kamil, president of the General Petroleum Company, says that oil exploration operations in Egypt have witnessed great development in the use of sophisticated technological methods and techniques since the national sector began its exploration operations in 1957, followed by foreign company participation, ever since 1964, within the scope of partnership and production-sharing agreements which led to an increase in oil exploration spending from \$5 million in 1952 to about \$600 million in 1982, that is, doubling 120 times. Consequently, the opportunity to find oil and discover new fields increased production from 2.7 million cubic meters in 1952 to 35.3 million cubic meters of oil and natural gas

in 1982, and improved the exploratory drilling success rate in the Gulf of Suez basin from 7 percent, during the period from 1908 to 1957 when conventional technological methods were being used, to 17 percent during the period from the early sixties to the present day, following the application of modern and sophisticated technology in searching for oil and natural gas.

Most Difficult Stages

The president of the General Petroleum Company adds that the oil exploration and discovery stage is the most difficult and tedious of all stages in the oil industry. Exploration and drilling teams have to survey the areas of exploration and, in the process, have to frequent deserts, valleys, sand dunes and seas where researchers spend difficult times between hope and despair. The exploratory stage is the costliest stage in the petroleum industry because it requires investments representing 55 percent of the petroleum sector investment, 10 percent of which is national [i.e., Egyptian] while international petroleum companies finance the majority of exploration operations whereby they face the risk element by applying modern technological means that help raise the rate of success in discovering oil, thus lowering the high costs that grow with the shift from one search area to another, such as the shift from oil exploration in the desert and the Delta to offshore exploration. The methods and techniques for oil exploration began developing internationally at the end of the last century by shifting from mere conjecture and random drilling to the use of methods based on the scientific principles of surface and geophysical survey. Such methods have undergone a great technological development represented in the creation of direct means for oil and natural gas exploration and the use of satellites in exploration operations as well as the use of the computer in geophysical exploration operations.

One Hundred Years of Drilling

Regarding the development in oil exploration activity, geologist Husayn Kamal says that a study of the statistics of oil exploration operations in Egypt since 1886 to the present time confirm that the number of exploratory wells drilled in the last 30 years (1952-1982) is double that of the 50 preceding years. The number of wells drilled in the Gulf of Suez area and the Eastern Desert is double that of the Western Desert, whereas the area of the Western Desert is 20 times larger than the area of the Gulf of Suez basin and the drilling areas in the Eastern Desert. Furthermore, most of the producing wells are located in the Gulf of Suez area and constitute 62 percent of the total producing wells in Egypt, a fact that underscores the importance and wealth of the Gulf of Suez exploration area. Moreover, stepped-up drilling operations lead to higher success rates inasmuch as the success rate rose from 6 percent for the 1886-1951 period to 14 percent for the 1973-1976 period to 17 percent for the 1976-1982 period.

Geologist Husayn Kamal says that the oil exploration industry has passed through three time periods from 1908 until now. From 1908 to 1951, exploration operations got underway with conventional methods within limited areas through

surface geological survey in the areas adjacent to the oil leakage areas in the Gulf of Suez and Sinai where the fields of al-Ghardaqah and Abu Darbah were discovered in 1913 and 1918, respectively, with a total reserve of about 6.9 million tons. Exploration was stepped up in the al-Ghardaqah and Jamsah fields area, then at the west bank of the Gulf of Suez from al-Ghardaqah to Ra's Gharib (1922-1936) where the Ra's Gharib field was discovered in 1937 with an actual reserve, at that time, of about 38 million cubic meters, or five times that of the al-Ghardaqah and Abu Darbah fields. Thereafter, the Oil Wells Company and the Standard Oil Company began exploration in the north and central Sinai and the gulf's west bank where the fields of Sadr, 'Asal, Matamir and Fir'an (1946-1949) were discovered, with an actual total reserve of 4.5 million cubic meters, by means of new magnetic survey, structural drilling and seismic survey exploration methods. Exploration activities stopped from 1948 until the outbreak of the 1952 revolution.

The period from 1952 to 1972 is considered one of the most important stages of oil exploration and prospecting in Egypt. During this period, the search for oil expanded over 200,000 square km in the Western Desert and the sea area in the Gulf of Suez, and the establishment of the General Petroleum Company, the only Egyptian company in the oil exploration and production field, was completed. Furthermore, exploration permits were granted to foreign companies within the scope of partnership agreements with the al-Sahari Petroleum Company from 1954 to 1958, the National Petroleum Company from 1953 to 1956, and the Pan American (Amoco), the Phillips Petroleum and the International Egyptian Oil companies in 1964. This led to the development of ideas and geological assumptions about oil possibilities in the Gulf of Suez and to the entry into new unexplored areas such as the Western Desert and the Nile Valley, in addition to the participation of national expertise in search and implementation [drilling] operations in the Eastern Desert, Sinai, and the Western Desert which resulted in the discovery of some fields and the deep-freezing of these areas, as well as providing the necessary data for attracting foreign investments. The General Petroleum Company succeeded in discovering the Bahr, Umm Karim, Umm al-Yusr and Shuqayr fields and later the Murjan field in the Gulf of Suez.

The 1973-1982 period witnessed the development of exploration activities in Egypt, as a result of the search areas' efforts to market the production-sharing system, into the ratification of about 78 agreements and an increase in investment to \$1.65 billion, ten times the amount spent on search operations during the preceding period.

This led to an increase in oil exploration activities since 1974 unparalleled in the history of exploration of Egypt whereby discoveries multiplied and multiple foreign company viewpoints emerged about oil possibilities and geological assumptions concerning off-shore drilling in the territorial waters of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

Geologist Husayn Kamal adds that oil exploration operations witnessed a great development in drilling techniques and in the quality, capability and efficiency of the equipment used. In the initial search stages (1868-1940),

the cable tool drilling technique operated by steam power was used with 149 wells being drilled in the Jamsah and Ghardaqah fields.

Then there was the rotary drilling technique which started in 1937 in the Ra's Gharib area. This technique has since been widely used and popularized. From 1937 to 1959, there were 11 rotary drilling rigs operating in Egypt with a 1,500 meter capacity; these rigs drilled 124 wells. In 1960, the turbine drilling technique was introduced by operating four rigs imported from the USSR (two with a 3,000 meter capacity and two with a 5,000 meter capacity). This method made it possible to follow the "guided" drilling method in coastal water formations. The shift from cable tool to rotary, then to turbine methods and the higher rig capacity (3,000 to 5,000 meters) led to a speeding-up of search operations and, consequently, to deep and coastal formation and trap test drilling. Then came the next step in developing exploration operations in Egypt, areas in the Gulf of Suez and the Mediterranean where the first offshore rig in Egypt was used in 1961. It was a floating platform with a rig on top anchored to the bottom of the sea by three pillars plus a ship carrying auxilliary equipment, motive power and pumps.

79 Discoveries

Geologist Shawqi 'Abdin, director general of exploration for the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company, says: "The exploration activity is aimed at raising the petroleum reserves by looking for new wells to be added to the original producing wells. The exploration effort in the current stage, as of 1973, surpasses that of all the preceding stages put together, even since the search for oil began in 1868, that is, 100 years ago. The total number of feet drilled in the current stage is over 4 million linear feet out of the 6.5 million drilled in Egypt in all the other stages put together. In other words, drilling in the last 10 years amounts to 65 percent of the total feet drilled in the past 100 years."

He says: "The great exploration effort during the current stage resulted in the discovery of oil in economic quantities in many of the wells: about 65 oil discoveries and 14 gas discoveries. Hence, the rate of success is around 18 percent, which is significantly higher than its kind in the preceding stages since it did not go beyond 12 percent in the third stage."

He adds: "Exploratory wells drilled as of 1968 amounted to 774 and have led to the discovery of 108 oil fields, 91 of which are for crude oil and 17 for natural gas. During the past 10 years, 1972 to 1983, 421 exploratory wells were drilled, yielding 79 discoveries, with 65 for crude and 14 for natural gas; 18 crude oil discoveries have been converted into producing fields while 47 crude oil and 14 natural gas discoveries are still being evaluated. Spending on search operations in the last stage amounted to \$3.6 billion, \$1.9 billion of which was the foreign companies' share and \$1.7 billion the joint companies' share. If the discovered reserve is roughly estimated at about 3.6 billion barrels of oil, we find that the exploration costs per barrel come out to about \$1, not counting the discovered gas reserves."

PROBLEM OF STRIPPING OF SOIL FOR BRICKMAKING REVIEWED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3127, 14 Sep 84 pp 52-55

[Article by 'Izzat Badawi: "The War against Soil Stripping: Soil Stripping has Consumed More Than 300,000 Feddans of the Most Fertile Land in Egypt"]

[Text] A few days ago Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, declared that activities of stripping off farmland had dropped by 80 percent as a result of the intensification of campaigns to combat soil stripping. An estimated 140 million pounds' worth of stripped soil has been seized in just 3 months. The problem of the stripping and denuding of farmland had reached an alarming level that threatened to subject Egypt to the loss of its farmland, 5.5 million feddans, in 25 years, and the loss of its most fertile land, 359,000 feddans, in just 10 years. A single raid in the Governorate of al-Gharbiyah netted 1,077 stripped feddans in a single day. The new agricultural law has raised the punishment for stripping from 200 to 50,000 pounds per feddan stripped, but stripping activities nonetheless escalated after the law was issued, in view of the rise in stripping prices. The value per feddan stripped to a depth of 1 meter has reached 100,000 pounds, and a feddan has been stripped to a depth of 8 meters in Kafr al-Zayyat. The intensified campaigns have stopped 80 percent of the stripping operations, but they have led to a rise in the prices of red clay and its disappearance from the markets. How can we cope with this serious problem? What do the owners of red clay factories say? What do officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Anti-Stripping Department say? What are the proposed solutions to this serious problem?

For more than a year, the former dean of the deputies, Sayyid Jalal, stood up in the People's Assembly, demanding most heatedly and insistently that the death sentence be pronounced against people committing the crime of stripping off and denuding farmland on grounds that that is a crime that is committed against the whole people, especially future generations, and threatens their life and existence.

By this opinion, the dean of the deputies was expressing the blatant nature of the catastrophe and the depth of the tragedy to which the green farmland in Egypt has been exposed all the length of the valley, from Aswan in the south to Alexandria in the north, since the Egyptian people's food is being subjected to premeditated, deliberate assassination!

This year, the same warning was repeated, although in the words of the socialist public prosecutor, when he sent the prime minister a notice giving details on this phenomenon and the effects derived from it and advising that a committee be formed urgently, in which all specialized agencies and ministries concerned will be represented, to study this phenomenon and set out suitable urgent, radical solutions to resist and eliminate it, because it has become widespread in most of the governorates of the republic and threatens wholesale reduction of the green farmland in Egypt, which will result in a tangible increase in costs of living and will double the efforts the government is making in a race with time to limit the seriousness of the food shortage in Egypt.

The obvious fact is that the phenomenon of stripping off farmland to manufacture red brick began after the silt from the floods was blocked up behind the High Dam, and the high level of construction activity on the farmland as a result of the housing crisis has swallowed up the equivalent of the horizontal increase we succeeded in realizing over 32 years of reclamation and new planting efforts, not to speak of the exorbitant expenses we have sustained. Even though our population has doubled and reached more than 45 million, we are living on approximately the same agricultural area, which is estimated at 5.5 million feddans.

Although the punishment for stripping and denuding farmland has been stiffened in the new agricultural law, which was issued in July 1983, with the fine totalling a maximum of 50,000 pounds per feddan stripped in addition to imprisonment and the confiscation of the machinery, equipment and soil produced by the stripping, last year witnessed intensified activity on the part of stripping "professionals," to the point where the area stripped and denuded this year came to more than 40,000 feddans of the best and most fertile farmland in Egypt. In addition, the rise of prices of construction land on the one hand and the exorbitant profits realized per feddan as a result of stripping on the other have led to the emergence of a parasitic class in rural society which sells the soil from farmland and realizes fantastic profits and rapid wealth from it, since the price of a feddan stripped just to the depth of a meter has reached 70,000 pounds and, since the average depth of stripping usually ranges from 3 to 5 meters, and indeed in some areas, especially in Kafir al-Zayyat, comes to 8 meters, the returns from the sale of the soil, which at the same time destroys the fertility of the farmland, surges to astronomical figures turning the people who make them into millionaires in a short time. The penalty the law has imposed on the people committing this crime dwindles in the face of this, since people who pay 50,000 pounds in fines will get in exchange for that no less than half a million pounds as a result of the sale of the soil and the subsequent subdivision of this area into land for construction.

Food or Housing?

However, if the stripping is done for the sake of producing red brick, and denuding the land is aimed at establishing housing and coping with the housing crisis, can we sacrifice our nourishment and the nourishment of our children for the sake of housing? Is there an alternative to the production of red brick? Does this alternative exist now?

The new agricultural law has given the owners of red brick factories a grace period till the end of August to shift their activity over to the production of alternatives to red brick in the form of clay, sand and cement brick. Do these alternatives exist now? What is the work of the higher committee the Council of Ministers has established to combat stripping and look after farmland? What is the opinion of the parties to the problem, the people who own red brick factories and the farmers who denude their land by stripping it?

90 Percent of the Stripping Occurs on First Class Land

At the outset Dr Ibrahim 'Antar, director of the Land Research Institute and chairman of the higher committee to combat stripping and protect farmland, said:

"This phenomenon is of the utmost seriousness, because it is the destruction of the most cherished and precious resource Egypt has, agricultural wealth, especially first class land. I say destruction because first class land in Egypt accounts for only 4 percent of the total farmland we have, all in all, which comes to 5.5 million feddans, and because 90 percent of the land stripped and denuded is first class land!"

I asked Dr Ibrahim 'Antar:

"How large has the area which has been withdrawn from agricultural land become?"

He said,

"From a recent census which the Institute for Land and Water Research has performed, it has been proved that no less than 40,000 feddans of first class land have been withdrawn through construction activities. This means that in the course of less than 10 years all the first class land in Egypt, which comes to 359,000 feddans, will be removed, although the productivity of a first class feddan equals that of 40 feddans of reclaimed sandy land during the first 5 years. That is, we are destroying the wealth of 4 million years in a few months, and we will not be able to make them up even in another 4 million years."

[Question] If the total farmland in Egypt is just 5.5 million feddans, the figure which pertained 30 years ago, where is the land that is being reclaimed every year going?

[Answer] The total area of farmland in Egypt is 8.2 million feddans, including fifth and sixth class land. However, a large proportion of these lands is not fit for farming and some other land does not have sources of irrigation. Thus the area which is actually farmed is 5.5 million feddans. In addition, the area reclaimed since 1952 does not exceed 900,000 feddans, and just 300,000 of this is productive, while the production of the rest is average. An area of 2.8 million feddans is supposed to be reclaimed about the Delta and the valley and some desert areas by 2000, but adding a single feddan to the farmed area is to be considered a very difficult thing because of the effort, time and great amounts of money it requires.

Therefore it is necessary to preserve every square centimeter of farmland in Egypt even if the order to preserve it leads to armed troops defending the sustenance of coming generations.

What is dangerous in the stripping process is that the per capita share of farmland in Egypt at present is no more than 200 square meters. If the phenomenon of stripping and denuding the farmland continues as it is now, in 10 years the per capita share of farmland will be just 50 square meters!

Thus we are destroying resources God gave to us and not to any neighboring country. In Qatar they import silt from Bangladesh to plant individual trees in front of the homes of big emirs, and we throw millions of tons of silt into the heart of the furnace to be burned.

[Question] If what is happening now is the destruction of our agricultural wealth, it is at the same time used to alleviate the housing crisis. What is the situation now?

A Village Where Only 500 Feddans Remain

Dr Ibrahim 'Antar said, "What is happening is a national crime. It would be more honorable for me to live out in the open in a hut than to destroy the people's whole livelihood.

"Do you know that the agricultural area of one village in the Governorate of al-Qalyubiyah, the village of Lesser al-Khususi, District of al-Khaniqah, was 1,548 feddans, and in the latest census this month it was discovered that an area of 1,048 feddans was denuded and had buildings put up on it, and only 500 feddans remain in the village?

"Stranger than that, the government for its part has followed the same method. The farm of the Faculty of Agriculture in Cairo University, which has graduated generations of agricultural engineers, was 400 feddans in area, and it has all been denuded, so that just 40 feddans of it remain, and these have been turned into a soccer field.

"What is going on is not a solution to the housing problem, it is the destruction and sabotage of the national wealth, and we should not allow a single feddan of our farmland to be destroyed beginning today. President Mubarak is interested to the utmost degree in this problem, to the point where the prime minister discussed this problem at the greatest length in the latest Council of Ministers meeting."

The Law Is Deterrent -- Why Is the Phenomenon Going on?

[Question] Does the current law contain penalties which should not be considered deterrent and help the spread of this phenomenon?

[Answer] The current law is undoubtedly deterrent. It imposes a fine of from 10,000 pounds at a minimum to 50,000 pounds at the maximum on every feddan, in addition to imprisonment and the confiscation of the machinery and equipment used in the stripping. The new amendment to the law will also remove

title from the owner of the land who strips or denudes it, and this is a terrible social punishment. We also will apply the section of the law bearing on the return of the soil to the land which has been stripped at the expense of the owner of the land.

[Question] Why doesn't the government help the owners of red brick factories produce alternatives instead of carrying out police raids?

[Answer] That is exactly what we are doing now. I have gathered together some red brick factory owners and have held a meeting with them, asking them to change their activity to the production of cement brick or the use of clay to produce brick. The government will offer them all technical aid and loans to make it easy to shift their activity to the production of alternatives.

The View of Agriculture Experts

If that is the view of the top man in charge of the anti-stripping struggle in Egypt, what is the opinion of agriculture experts concerning this serious phenomenon?

Dr Mahir Wali, professor in the [Faculty of] Agriculture at al-Azhar, said: "The source of the basis of the problem is that the Egyptian peasant, by his nature, has a desire to stay in touch with the village and consequently to establish good housing as a sign of progress and prosperity. The peasants have exploited the process of revival which Egypt went through in the seventies, the migration of peasants to Arab countries and their return with large amounts of money for putting up buildings.

"The nature of the villages and hamlets which have been built on fertile land and consequently all extensions and expansions of these villages will be at the expense of the farmland. The Governorate of al-Fayyum is the best proof of this. Although the distance between it and the desert is no more than 6 kilometers, all buildings are built on farmland only."

Dr Mahir Wali added, "The seriousness of this phenomenon is that it is eliminating our agricultural wealth without anything in return. It is not aimed at the establishment of an industrial society in the place of the agriculture it is destroying, it is aimed at the establishment of an organized built-up society. Indeed, the expansion of construction which is occurring on the farmland now consists only of random subdivisions. That is, we are destroying our agricultural wealth for the sake of random, unplanned buildings.

"Therefore, if the government is serious about eliminating this phenomenon, it must prevent construction on farmland for all reasons whatever, and it is necessary to create areas of attraction in the desert, especially since the valley is narrow and is surrounded by desert on all sides. It is also necessary to supply utilities and services for these new areas."

The Problem in the Realm of Actuality

If this is the opinion of experts of agriculture and the chairman of the anti-stripping committee, we must go down to the realm of actuality, experience the "atmosphere" of the intensified campaigns to combat this crime, and hear the opinions of the peasants and the owners of red brick factories. What are their demands? What are their vexations?

The Governorate of al-Gharbiyah last week witnessed the biggest campaign the agencies of the Ministry of the Interior have organized to fight against stripping and denuding farmland. One hundred twenty officers and 500 regular soldiers in the water surface police, the agency which is responsible for combatting the stripping and denuding, took part in it, along with 50 agricultural engineers from the Institute of Land and Water Research. The campaign covered all districts in the governorate and was split up into 20 raids on sites specified in accordance with the areas where investigations had established that stripping was taking place, especially since the stripping operations take place only after midnight, far from the eyes of officials.

The campaign lasted 4 days, in the course of which it was possible to seize 147 farm tractors, 133 trailers, and three trucks full of topsoil. In addition, 32 mixers, two bulldozers and two trucks were seized, 32 stripping cases and nine denuding cases were filed, and in addition 202 red brick factories lacking permits and 1,077 feddans which had been stripped were seized!

Brig Gen Ahmad 'Awad of the war staff of the campaign said "All the tractors, trailers, trucks, machinery and equipment that were seized will be confiscated in accordance with the law and delivered to the Department of Agriculture in al-Gharbiyah, since this equipment was imported duty-free to contribute to agricultural mechanization but was used to eliminate the farmland!"

Brig Gen Ahmad 'Awad added, "The raid seized 4,232,000,000 cubic meters of topsoil with an estimated value of 4,232,000 pounds. This soil will be confiscated in accordance with the law also and will be returned to the stripped areas once again, after their value has been collected from the peasants who carried out the stripping, in addition to the costs and expenses of putting it back on the land."

Maj Gen Jamil Abu al-Dahab, al-Gharbiyah security director, said, "The total land that has stripped this year in the course of 7 months comes to 120 feddans, and the price of a feddan stripped to a depth of 2 meters comes to 100,000 pounds, while a feddan stripped in al-Daqahliyah comes to 200,000 pounds, especially following the campaigns the water surface police have carried out, which resulted in raising the price of stripping and consequently has raised the price of red brick, which has come to 105 pounds per 1,000 bricks, having been 65 pounds before the campaign."

I asked the al-Gharbiyah security director:

"Does this mean that the price of red brick rises as the raids gain in intensity?"

He said, "Yes. Four months ago the department held an isolated raid on the owners of red brick plants. The price of brick at that time was 55 pounds per thousand, and right after the raid the price rose to 100 pounds."

"Aren't there factories to produce alternatives to red brick in al-Gharbiyah Governorate which can flood the market with their production?"

"There is no alternative in al-Gharbiyah Governorate to red brick. The governorate has no clay, and there are no plants to produce cement or limestone brick. In fact, we buy cement brick from just one factory, in the District of Quwaysina in the Governorate of al-Minufiyah, and its output is not big enough for the requirements of government buildings in the two governorates."

The Need To Seek an Alternative

Maj Gen 'Amr al-Sha'rani, director of the research department in the water surfaces police and commander of the campaign, broke into the conversation and said,

"There are two sides to the stripping process. It is a waste of agricultural wealth on the one hand but on the other it provides the brick needed for housing. That is the question: Is food more important, or housing? So far, food has been more important, but while we have been struggling for the sake of providing food, the Ministry of Housing must seek to provide an alternative to the production of red brick and make feasibility studies to shift red brick plants to the production of alternatives and provide job opportunities for workers in the red brick plants whose lives are linked to this industry, because, if alternatives to red brick are not available, construction activities will be provided, and it is the people who usually pay the price in the form of a staggering housing crisis, which will become intense after these raids if the government does not take the initiative to provide an alternative."

Stripping Professionals

While this is the view of people in charge of combatting the stripping, the owners of red brick factories and people who deal in stripping have a different view.

Muhammad Taha Hashshad, member of the local council of Kafr al-Zayyat and an owner of farmland in Kafr Hashshad, says:

"It is not a problem of owners of red brick factories; rather, it is a general problem. There are many workers whose lives are now linked to this industry and to work in these factories, and the lives of the owners of the old factories are now linked to this industry; consequently, there is no alternative except to allow the stripping of farmland to a specific depth to be specified by the Ministry of Agriculture, on certain lands, lands where

there is river alluvium, that is, delta land, provided that the land improvement fund impose a consumer's tax on the land which is stripped so that it can benefit from the receipts from that to reclaim desert land, at a rate of 5,000 pounds per feddan stripped to a depth of a meter, because there is much land along the Nile River shore which is irrigated only by water lifting machines and consequently has to be stripped."

I asked him, "Stripping eliminates the fertility of the farmland so that consequently it does not yield any production; what is the position?

He said,

"Stripping, in my opinion, will not lead to a decline in per-feddan productivity because the delta land is sedimentary. It is all silt. It will not harm it if it is stripped."

[Question] Why shouldn't these plants change their activity to produce alternatives to red brick?

[Answer] As regards the production of alternatives to red brick, we do not have clay. Cement brick as an alternative has its difficulties. It erodes if water touches it, especially in toilets, and consequently subjects homes to collapse."

Al-Hajj Salih Mansur Ibrahim, owner of a red brick plant in Kafr al-Zayyat, says:

"I built my plant 3 years ago. I buy silt from the peasants and I bought silt from Sawhaj at a price of 30 pounds per tractor. If the government wants to eradicate red brick, it will have to find us an alternative. We are dependent on red brick production. It must also offer us the loans necessary to produce an alternative, because every brick plant owes the banks debts of no less than 200,000 pounds."

I asked him, "Have you got a permit for your factory?"

He said,

"No, all the factories in al-Gharbiyah Governorate lack permits; although I have paid 50,000 pounds in insurance for workers and get sand from the government quarry, the government has refused to grant a permit."

Al-Hajj Muhammad Ahmad Dhar'iyah, also owner of a red brick plant, said "Although I built the plant 8 years ago, it does not have a permit, although I pay insurance for the workers. The Tax Department also wrote to me, asking me for taxes, but I have not yet figured them out. I am also buying red brick sand from Idku, in Rashid, where there is a government quarry."

[Question] Why don't you change your activity to producing alternatives to red brick?

[Answer] I am ready to shift my activity to the production of alternatives to red brick, but where is the alternative? We do not have clay or any other

alternative. In general I am ready to buy any alternative to red brick whether that is clay or cement."

In conclusion we had to meet with the man who bears the responsibility of protecting the farmland, to present him with the complaints and recommendations we heard from the owners of brick plants and farmers and to hear his viewpoint from him and hear whether his role is just to fight stripping and not to search to offer alternatives to red brick.

What Does the Top Official Say?

Maj Gen Munir Muhsin, director of the Water Surface Police Department, the agency responsible for combatting the stripping of farmland, said:

"The campaign agency conducted intensified raids in the past 3 months which included 14 governorates, the latest of which was the Governorate of al-Gharbiyah. In the course of these raids we found that al-Gharbiyah Governorate is the one which has been stripped the most, followed by the Governorates of al-Buhayrah, Bani Suwayf, then Giza and al-Minufiyah. The value of the soil stripped off and stored that has been seized so far is estimated at 140 million pounds. So far 25 loaders have also been seized. One should bear in mind that the value of a loader is 120,000 pounds. In addition, 316 farm tractors, 312 trailers, 435 trucks, 15 barges, a felucca and two fork lift trucks have been seized. The number of cases where land was denuded and stripped came to 241."

[Question] Is success measured by the number of cases or the eradication of the phenomenon itself?

[Answer] The number of cases is proof that efforts have been intensified. The crime of stripping farmland in fact dropped by 80 percent following the intensification of the campaigns to cope with the trespass against farmland. In addition, the campaign does not end just when the equipment and machinery is seized and confiscated and the stripping case is written up; rather, we are now plowing the denuded ground over again. An area of 70 feddans has actually been plowed up in al-Khanikah in the Governorate of al-Qalyubiyah, and the irrigation source is being restored to it again at the expense of its owners. However, if the Egyptian peasant did not have a patriotic conscience to which his affiliation with his land could be attributed, no matter how severe the punishment became there would be no use in it, and there is an example of that, the penalty for narcotics, which has gone as high as the death sentence.

[Question] Therefore the combat campaigns have reduced the phenomenon of stripping and have created a problem with red brick. What is your honored opinion?

[Answer] The rise in red brick prices is one that has just been engineered by the owners of the brick plants, because they want to realize the greatest possible amount of profit in the grace period the law has set to next September, on the one hand. In addition, the demand for red brick became intensified after the raids with the drop in supply, as a result of its being

stored by the dealers so that the supply would decrease and the price rise, especially since brick is an unperishable commodity.

[Question] Why haven't the combat raids been accompanied by the provision of alternatives to red brick in the markets in order to prevent the appearance of a bottleneck in the construction market?

[Answer] We are now supplying the clay brick output of the public sector, which comes to 195 million units. At the same time, we are performing the studies necessary to build a number of these plants, and a study has actually been prepared on alternatives to red brick. We now have nine clay brick plants and by the end of 1985, the date stipulated for shifting production over from red brick to alternatives, they will rise to 38. It is expected that at that time they will yield a production of 1.08 million clay bricks. They are all public sector, investment and private factories, aside from the plants which will shift their activity to the production of alternatives to red brick.

In general, our production of alternatives to red brick by the end of 1984 will greatly reduce the severity of the red brick shortage and will not make [line missing] the government subjected to threats by the owners of red brick plants who do the stripping, but the citizens must conform to the government's national line and not help the owners of red brick plants who do not have permits, who carry out stripping, create a problem where there is none.

In any event, no more than 30 red brick plants have permits throughout the republic, while there are 1,000 plants without permits. These are the ones that want to contrive the crisis because they are the only beneficiaries, without giving anything in exchange.

[Question] What is the legal situation regarding plants which do not have permits? Is the punishment the law has imposed on them deterrent?

[Answer] These plants realize great profits, and their owners have been turned into millionaires in a short period by dealing in the stripping of farmland. In spite of that, they do not pay any compensation to the government, be that taxes, insurance for workers or anything else. I will inform the Tax Evasion Department of all the owners of these plants, so that it can collect what is owed the government from them.

From the standpoint of the law, the administrative closure decree issued by the office of the public prosecutor against these plants has not been carried out because as soon as a factory owner leaves the office of the public prosecutor he opens another door next to the one which was closed off, without any punishment by law, and this is a serious loophole which the owners of these plants exploit.

SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURE DISCUSSES UNION WITH LIBYA

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1455, 21 Sep 84 pp 36, 37

[Article: "A Comprehensive Conversation with the Head of the Moroccan Constitutional Union: Maati Bouabid: Unity Is Not Based on Emotion and Improvisation"]

[Text] Maati Bouabid, prime minister in the previous Moroccan cabinet from 1979 to 1983 and minister of state before he resigned from his position in the current cabinet, is a prominent political and party figure.

He began his political activity in the ranks of the Istiqlal Party and entered the cabinet as minister of labor after independence, by virtue of his connection with the Moroccan Federation of Labor, the biggest workers' grouping, in 1959.

Maati Bouabid joined the groups which split off from his party and founded the National Union of Popular Forces. An estrangement then took place between him and his party in 1977, in the wake of his assumption of the position of the minister of labor. Then in April 1983 he founded the Constitutional Union Party.

AL-HAWADITH, in its conversation with Maati Bouabid, paused to consider important points in his party and political progress.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the Constitutional Union Party's programs for the upcoming period, in the climate of the elections?

Maati Bouabid: The party's program has been well known, of course, before, during and after the elections. When we advanced ourselves as a political party, the primary goal, as far as we and the post-independence generation were concerned, was to press this generation to be interested in its nation's affairs. What will we tell these young people and the citizens, and what will we defend following the elections? This is the question that has been raised.

Our first goal is to support democracy from the political and economic standpoints. This is my view and that of our brothers in the party. The

countries of the third world and the countries which were liberated after the sixties appealed for what is called socialism, nationalism and the state economy. We, however, will defend and work to encourage free initiative, because we believe that free initiative is the way to get Morocco out of the economic crisis it is going through, and is one way of giving Moroccans confidence in themselves. If we defend democracy and freedoms from the political standpoint and free initiative from the economic standpoint, we will have placed Moroccans in their future setting, and, more important than that, will have guided them in our planning toward a "regional" policy. Everything is concentrated in Rabat, the capital, and there is a need to devote attention to Morocco as a whole, so that it can take part economically and politically in development.

AL-HAWADITH: The Socialist Union of Popular Forces, in the words of its first secretary, Abderrahim Bouabid, states that the liberal free economy is what has produced this stifling economic crisis, and there are other parties which repeat the same charge, describing you as clients and the authorities' party. How do you answer these charges?

Maati Bouabid: As for their statement that it is liberalism which has brought the country to this crisis, this is not true, because if we look at the Moroccan economy we will find that it is endowed with the character of liberalism. However, we find public institutions and offices in Morocco which have no relationship to liberalism. Then when the Socialist Union talks in this manner, I do not understand what its reason is. When I talk to some of its leaders and officials, they assert to me that they are not against free initiative. To this moment, I know what they mean [sic].

As for the charge that we are clients of the authorities, I have not understood their thinking. Perhaps they got this idea when I represented his majesty's government in my capacity as prime minister. Now, however, I am on the same level as they are, just like the other ministers in the government.

Here I would like to ask about the meaning of authority. The answer is that parties are represented in power which are all present in the government, and I am one of them. Why should I alone be a client of the authorities? Why should I not say that they are clients of the authorities?

If they failed in the municipal elections, for example, where the Constitutional Union Party won the majority of the seats, they are free to say what they want.

As far as the elections to the chambers of commerce or agriculture go, I believe, following their declared results, that there is no longer any justification for me not to be on a par with them, that is, with the leaders of the other parties.

AL-HAWADITH: It is said that there are warm ties between the Constitutional Union Party and Mr Ahmed Guedira, the king's advisor, and that it is these ties which led you to establish the party which, as you think of it, has been described as exemplary, although you were a member of the National Union of Popular Forces, which is a leftwing party.

Maati Bouabid: Warm ties with Mr Ahmed Guedira are a natural thing, because he is a politician whom I have known for 30 years and have faced in old conflicts.

I was indeed a member of the National Union of Popular Forces, but what I saw, heard and lived through in the National Union is enough to keep me from entering into struggles with people who are outside the National Union or those who founded the Socialist Union. I have always told myself, for special reasons, that I never could at any time be one of the people who founded the Socialist Union, and that is my right, I believe. I hope that I will write one day, should God give me a long life. I have not wanted to say or declare this in any article or journalistic interview.

It is possible that I have warm ties with Mr Ahmed Guedira, and I have boundless respect for my friend in the Socialist Union, Mr Abderrahim Bouabid. I also have respect for our brother M'Hamed Boucetta, chairman of the Istiqlal Party, since I was in its ranks when I was a student. As for the Constitutional Union, we founded that along with the group which believed, considered, thought and was convinced that there was a necessity to create a new party for some post-independence generation.

AL-HAWADITH: To clarify the picture further, I would like to ask you about the appeal which was published in your newspaper RISALAT AL-UMMAH on 1 May saluting the Moroccan Federation of Labor and the working class. Maati Bouabid is well known to have been a member of the Moroccan Federation and for being a son of the working class. Does that mean that there are further warm ties between the Constitutional Party and the Moroccan Federation under the chairmanship of Mahjoub Benseddik, as with Mr Guedira?

Maati Bouabid: The fact is that that statement was made by the Moroccan Labor Federation for publication in all the papers the Constitutional Union publishes. Our misfortune as Arabs is that if we do something, perhaps a piece of journalism, they say that you have one motive or another. I am not hiding anything. The working class must defend itself and its rights. I would like to say something important here which I have previously reiterated a number of times, which is that in the workers' area I have warm ties with the Moroccan Federation of Labor not because I have established a party or gone into the cabinet, not at all; I have warm ties with them because I think that the Moroccan Federation of Labor represents the legitimate union movement in Morocco.

AL-HAWADITH: More than 6 years have elapsed since the latest legislative elections. What has happened, in your opinion, and what has changed in the process of Moroccan democracy?

Maati Bouabid: Before 1976 things were repressed. There was no parliament; there were municipal and village councils and none of the political bodies which had influence took part in anything. Since 1976, however, there has been a liberalization and participation including the farthest left, such as the Party of Progress and Socialism and the Socialist Union. This in our view is a step forward. Our steps now are firmer and steadier, because we are defending an advanced, dynamic democracy, not a stagnant one, such as

those where we see the same people representing their regions in parliament and the municipal councils. The dynamic ones are the ones where we gain something every year and in every stage of democracy.

AL-HAWADITH: What guarantees are there, should disputes occur over the application of the laws?

Maati Bouabid: We have first of all the constitution, we have the courts, we have the higher council, and there are the political positions we will adopt, which all exist and are present and accessible to everyone.

AL-HAWADITH: In the speech the king of Morocco gave on the occasion of the revolution of the king and the people, he expressed a new interpretation of Article Three of the constitution, which stipulates that each citizen has the right to run for election; the king has given a new individual interpretation of the article, that is, that not every citizen has the right to run for election unless he belongs to a party. It appears that all the parties, including the opposition, have been silent about this interpretation or theory. What do you yourselves say?

Maati Bouabid: There is the legal interpretation and there are people who say, as was stated in his majesty the king's speech, that for the law to be applied the political bodies must train the citizens and if a citizen wants to run in the elections he must have a point of view and distinguishing feature as far as the legislative elections go. There are people who state the opposite, that is, that since we are defending the citizen's freedom, this citizen must choose what he wants and not assume a specific point of view or be oriented toward a political body. His majesty has given the former interpretation, and up to now all the political bodies have been in agreement. Everyone who complains before or after the elections will say that these people do not belong, that they are a group of people who will be under the control of the administration; his majesty has thereby eliminated these political interpretations, that any citizen who is not a party member, runs as a candidate and wins the trust of the citizens, as far as the parties and everyone are concerned, will belong to the administration and people therefore say that the party of the administration is the party of people who have no affiliation. His majesty, through this interpretation, has resolved this dispute and thwarted them. This, in my opinion, as far as current circumstances go, is a contribution to democracy, especially following the interpretations we have experienced in the past, lest it be said tomorrow that the Moroccan administration has a party of people without affiliation and that it will dominate people in the parliament who have no affiliation.

AL-HAWADITH: There are people who say that for the first time in history the elections were not preceded by an intensified propaganda campaign and that there was no need for one. Could this entail the suggestion that the game of parliamentary seats had been engineered in advance and that agreement had been reached on their distribution?

Maati Bouabid: The election campaign, according to the law, started on 1 September and ended on the night of the elections, that is, on 13 September.

The people who say that are the ones I talked about earlier. If that was a criticism of us, it will alleviate their pain that they failed, or that their candidates did not succeed. This is something which I pray God to help them with.

AL-HAWADITH: What do you say we move on to another subject? In the course of my brief stay in Morocco, while attending some gatherings calling for the establishment of the Moroccan-Libyan federation (the Socialist Union, Progress and Socialism, the Independents and the Constitutional Union), I noticed that there was an emotional campaign to get the Moroccan citizen involved emotionally in terms of his hope for the future and for reaping the fruit of this federation. The East has suffered from charges of this sort in the past. To what extent do you yourself view the features of this federation as positive and negative? I can state frankly, aren't you concerned about the people and the headache they might suffer in the event the federation fails?

Maati Bouabid: What you have observed in Morocco, and we have been pleased that AL-HAWADITH has attended these gatherings and the gathering that I chaired a short time ago in my birthplace close to Casablanca, is that the Moroccan people listen well and that we must explain everything to them. The issue is not one of emotion and improvisation and nothing else. Union is not based on emotion or on improvisation. Therefore, when I spoke about the reasons for the failure of the unions and federations which went before us among African, Asian, Islamic and Arab countries, I mentioned the reasons for the failure, in order to summarize by telling them that there might perhaps have been reasons for the failure but that we wanted to avoid them. I said that this document has produced obvious things. I spoke about political will and good will and a lack of improvisation, showed our brothers that this document contains every condition but warned them that leadership, domination, wars of words and so forth were the causes for the failure of a number of federations and that these might perhaps spread to us, but there is a way to solve all conflicts among ourselves, and the important thing, as I stressed, is this clarity and having the federation speak for Moroccan territorial sovereignty from Tangiers to Kouira. The important thing is that the Moroccan people do not like to proceed on the basis of improvisation and that this agreement is in effect an example, model and exemplar for the sake of the construction of the Maghreb and the construction of Arab unity and African and Islamic unity.

AL-HAWADITH: In the newspaper RISALAT AL-UMMAH, the Constitutional Union's newspaper, it was pointed out that marriage between two contradictory parties, as psychologists say, is soundest and most proper for sustaining ties and that marriage between two parties who are similar leads only to boredom. Do you really believe in this theory and basically advance it in transactions and promoting federation? The adversity was at its most intense in the past. Is it adversity of this sort which will lead to affection and passionate love?

Maati Bouabid: Since we are talking about marriage, we would like it to be integrated, final and eternal. You undoubtedly read this statement in the column 'The Observer'. To this moment, to be honest, I have not read the newspaper.

AL-HAWADITH: In the past referendum was the basic approach for resolving the problem of the Sahara, as was agreed upon at the African summit at Nairobi. Is the federation a green light for solving the problem? In other words, is it a turning point in the course of the Saharan solution, taking it out of the hands of the Africans in order to create an Arab solution?

Maati Bouabid: We have not relinquished a grain of our soil. We believe in the referendum and believe that the referendum will confirm our own view and confirm that the Sahara is Moroccan. If there are people who are proposing solutions, let them be so kind as to do so; we are ready to listen, then study, then act, if such action will solve the problem.

The issue of the Sahara will be settled someday, but the creation of the Maghreb, the establishment of Arab unity and so forth are loftier than that. If the federation is to be a cause for the resolution of the crisis, that is a good result. If the issue is to be taken out of the hands of the African countries and put in the hands of the Arab countries, that is splendid also. We are now ready to solve the issue of the Sahara. His majesty proposed an initiative in Nairobi which was embodied in the referendum, and everyone applauded him. The adversaries then proceeded to say that the referendum was not the solution. We are still backing a referendum, whenever it might come. We are always receptive to all proposals. We study them all. The important thing as far as the issue of the Sahara goes is that everyone should feel that the Sahara issue, to us, is an issue of principle, and has highest priority in the eyes of a treaty endorsed by the Moroccan and Libyan people whose purpose is to build the Maghreb. As for the tripartite agreement, we also applaud it, and believe that it may perhaps continue the building of the Maghreb, but, as far as we are concerned, we do not want to get into obscure mazes. As for our establishing an agreement in order to find a solution to the Sahara problem in the framework of this treaty on the basis of Morocco's relinquishing its rights, that will not happen. It will never take place.

AL-HAWADITH: A final question. The Moroccan man in the street mockingly calls your party a "pressure cooker," that is, a pot under pressure or steam which cooks food in a short time. Some people find it appealing and others find it scalding, in the sense that the Constitutional Federation is a party which was established less than a year ago and nonetheless occupies a number of government positions. What do you have to say?

Maati Bouabid: First, I am grateful to people who like to joke, because that is proof of good health. Second, "pressure cooker" pots are good, they cook rapidly, and housewives cannot do without them. We are in the era of technology, development and changes. This means that we cook a carefully studied, quick and successful policy; new things have arisen in order to shorten time and prove effective, and there is no longer any validity to the French saying which holds "We cook good soup in [old] pots." Rather, it is necessary to put the word new in place of the old, and then allow me to let those doubters live with their doubts; we have only work in front of us. The future is waiting for us, and is bearing witness to our work and theirs. God is the master of success.

ISRAEL

MANY RETURNING EMIGRANTS REPORTED DISSATISIFIED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 84 p 3

[Article by Gid'on Alon: "79 Percent of Returning Emigrants Dissatisfied with the Assistance Offered by Jewish Agency Agents and Employment Agencies; 34 Percent Doubtful They Will Stay in Israel"]

[Text] A new study into the reacclimatization of returning emigrants reveals that 79 percent of them are dissatisfied with the assistance they received from the Ministry of Absorption. Sevent-two percent expressed dissatisfaction with the assistance offered by Jewish Agency immigration agents, while 69 percent were dissatisfied with the aid they received from the Employment Service upon their return. Some 34 percent of all returning emigrants stated that they are not certain they will stay in Israel. Some 50 percent pointed out that they are managing, but added that they are encountering acclimatization problems.

The study, which was conducted by Dr Aharon Fein of the Social Work school of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem at the initiative of the office of Deputy Minister Dov Shilansky, coordinator of activities to prevent emigration, is based on a sample of 488 male heads of households who returned to Israel in 1983 after a prolonged stay abroad.

In support of one of his major conclusions the author of the study claimed that the assistance offered to returning emigrants often does not address the problems of those who need help. Dr Fein believes that in view of the low level of satisfaction derived from the services provided for returning emigrants, steps must be taken to improve these services, because such a person's bad experience with ineffectual assistance not only does not help, but it can even make him cancel his plans to return. The author of the study points out that in the majority of cases there is no cooperation or clear working procedures among the various factors in charge of the return of emigrants. He recommended that a single agency be tasked with coordinating all activities to promote the return of emigrants.

The findings of the study also revealed that some 38 percent of Israelis went abroad for studies, 15 percent left in order to improve their economic situation, 16 percent were sent abroad (by government offices, the Jewish Agency, or other Israeli bodies), 12 percent left for the purpose of professional advancement, and 21 percent for "other purposes." The majority of returning emigrants (57 percent) are sabras and 42 percent are citizens who were not born in Israel.

Cancellation of Customs Exemptions

According to the findings of the study, 15 percent of those returning decided to do so because of difficult economic conditions abroad. Sixty-six percent of those returning were motivated by emotional ties to the country and a feeling of alienation abroad. During the process of returning to Israel the emigrants received assistance from various sources, but the majority (86 percent) relied on personal connections.

According to the study, 64 percent of the returning emigrants took advantage of the customs exemptions on household applicances, to which every returning resident who lived abroad for more than 2 years is entitled. Among those sent abroad on official mission 81 percent took advantage of the customs exemption.

Deputy Minister Dov Shilansky, who was appointed by the government to deal with measures to prevent emigration, reacted to the above saying that the conclusions of the study reinforce his view that the customs exemptions for returning emigrants should be abolished. He believes that such benefits--which, according to the estimates of the State Revenue Administration, total some \$7,000 per family--encourage emigration. He deplored the fact that his efforts to bring about the cancellation of the customs exemption for emigrants have failed so far because of opposition from the Ministry of Absorption.

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ISRAEL

UNEMPLOYMENT BLAMED FOR ELAT EXODUS

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 84 p 5

[Article by HA'ARETZ correspondent in Elat, Etan Rabin: "A Wave of Emigrations is Sweeping Elat in the Wake of Mounting Employment Difficulties"]

[Text] A wave of emigration, unprecedented in recent years, is currently sweeping Elat. Dozens of families are leaving the city and moving north, a phenomenon described in Elat as a "plague of mass desertions." It is pointed out that the cause has to do with a scarcity of jobs. This year there are as yet no figures as to the number of people leaving, but at the Elat municipality it is said that some 250-300 families are involved, some of whom have already left, while the rest will do so at the beginning of the new school year. Among the first to leave were people laid off by Timna, teachers, veterans, port workers, and self-employed people.

A senior source at the Elat municipality pointed out that according to his estimate based on data in his possession, approximately 400 families will leave the city. He added that the Elat municipality trying to mobilize teachers and others to come and settle in the city.

Knesset member Jacques Amir from the Alignment, who is worried about the unemployment in Elat, will propose an urgent item for the Knesset agenda about the employment situation in the city. According to Jacques Amir, the reason he addressed the question to the Knesset speaker is that until now Elat replied on three major employment sources: the port, the Timna copper mines, and tourism. Now, however, the port is almost completely idle, the Timna copper enterprises have closed down, and the workers who were laid off lack suitable temporary jobs. Consequently, the level of unemployment has increased, and many people, who had invested their best years in the development of this southern city, find themselves without work. In the opinion of Jacques Amir, the Knesset must deal with the future of the city before it is too late.

'Ovadia Korekh, deputy director general of the Employment Office in charge of unemployment, said in a radio interview to YOMAN HASHAVUA on Saturday that people who are prepared to compromise and to work in different sectors can still find jobs.

Korekh stressed that "not every person who comes today to the employment agency will find his dream job, but those who are prepared to take jobs in construction, industry, hotels, or services, even though they are professionals, will find work."

As for claims that workers from the territories are depriving Israelis of jobs, Mr Korekh pointed out that "if, for whatever reason, the workers from the territories stopped coming to work for us tomorrow, I am afraid that many sectors would collapse for lack of replacements." He then added an oft-heard saying in his office: "From the day the Wailing Wall was freed, the people of Israel were freed from physical labor," and said that if Israeli veterans and workers had wanted to replace the Arabs from the territories they could have found work. Nevertheless, he agreed with complaints that employers prefer to hire workers from the territories who accept lower wages, but added that he has no control over this situation.

'Ovadia Korekh also said that he advises veterans seeking work to take on temporary jobs, even the worst and the "basest" of jobs, until they can find something more suitable. That should be preferable to unemployment, even "deluxe unemployment."

Mr Korekh added: "I would tell the soldiers: Gentlemen, good jobs, senior positions, and attractive work are not available from the first day one enters the labor market. In the same way in which you gave 3 years of army service to the homeland you can invest 2-3 years in temporary work, and then you will find employment suitable to you."

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ISRAEL

SALTY WATER SAID THREATENING KINNERET

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Aug 84 p 16

[Article by Yitzhaq Bar-Yosef: "Golan Heights Water Reservoirs May Make Kinneret Salty"]

[Text] The danger of salinization is threatening the Kinneret as a result of work begun on the erection of 33 water reservoirs in the Golan flow of streams that have been emptying into the Jordan. The alarm was sounded by the Society for the Preservation of Nature, which has begun a legal battle against further work on the reservoirs. At the end of the past week the Society requested a court order to stop the building of the reservoirs, five of which have already been completed.

According to Dr Dan Beharav of the Society for the Preservation of Nature, the reservoirs will retain 60 million cubic meters of water a year, i.e., about one-third of all the fresh water flowing from the Golan Heights into the Kinneret. This will affect the mixing of water in the Kinneret, raise the percentage of salty water flowing into it from other sources, and destroy many of the beautiful streams of the Golan Heights.

According to Dr Beharav, the Society for the Preservation of Nature will fight to preserve the largest of the Golan Heights rivers, such as Daliot, Gilbun, Gamla, and Wadi Samakh.

Tzemah Yishai, water commissioner at the Ministry of Agriculture, said in response: "These claims are totally unfounded; there is no sense in letting the water flow from the Golan Heights into the Kinneret and then pumping it back up. There is a master plan for building the reservoirs that will provide irrigation water for the agricultural land in the southern areas of the Golan Heights. The plan was approved 4 years ago and we will continue to carry it out."

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BRIEFS

NO FUNDS FOR VETERANS BILL--The Ministry of Education and Culture will not be able to implement the veterans bill in the coming school year because the Ministry of Finance has not allocated it the necessary funds. This was stated the day before yesterday by Eli'ezer Shmu'eli, general director of the ministry, at the conclusion of a meeting of representatives of the two ministries on this subject. The bill, which was passed in the Knesset before the elections, imposes on the Ministry of Education and Culture the responsibility of ensuring that the state pays 75 percent of the school fees of discharged soldiers who seek to complete their high school education; and enables the veteran to obtain loans for university studies. A representative of the Ministry of Finance, Amnon Safran, who attended the meeting, stated that his ministry had not allocated the necessary budget to the Ministry of Education to carry out those provisions of the law. The director general of the Ministry of Education said that there is no doubt that the bill is justified from an educational and social viewpoint, but emphasized that it cannot be carried out if the government does not provide his ministry with the necessary staff and resources. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 84 p 2] 12782

NO MONARCH FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL--The British air company Monarch, which is connected with Israel's Ma'of air company, has announced its intention to cancel its flights from London to Ben-Gurion airport following the new regulations that the Ministry of Transportation has adopted against charter flight companies. An ITIM correspondent has learned from Ma'of that the organizers of the charter flights in England Twickenham Trawl and Four Seas Holidays have informed Monarch that as of 20 September they are canceling their charters to Israel for the entire winter season. Monarch had weekly flights from London to Tel Aviv on Boeing 757 planes with a capacity of 228 passengers. The flights were already canceled on the eve of the holidays, since the organizers in England believed that it was not profitable to run charter flights to Israel for tourists alone and that during the holidays there were better chances for flying mixed groups of tourists and Israelis. Ma'of also stated that some 5,000 tourists canceled their trips to Israel in the coming winter season following the cancellation of Monarch flights. The British organizers informed their agents in Israel that following the decision to stop selling package tours to Israel, some of the passengers will be transferred to other charter flight companies, while the majority will be offered travel packages to other destinations. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Aug 84 p 19] 12782

INVESTMENT IN FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL FARMS--Koor Trade will establish agricultural farms in Australia and Swaziland in cooperation with local bodies. Each such project will allow for Israeli exports worth millions of dollars. Koor Trade will establish a cotton plantation in Australia on an area of about 2,000 hectares. The overall investment required for the plantation is approximately \$4 million; Koor Trade will put up about one-third of that. Koor estimates that this plantation will constitute an additional breakthrough for the company in Australia. There is an option to expand the plantation gradually, over the next few years, to an area of approximately 25,000 hectares. This project will allow for Israeli exports totaling several million dollars, in the areas of agricultural mechanization irrigation, and pesticide materials. Koor Trade also plans to establish a farm in Swaziland, near South Africa. This cotton plantation will be established in cooperation with local governmental and private bodies. The investment involved in this project is of approximately \$2.4 million, of which Koor Trade will provide 15 percent. Israeli exports expected for this project will total some \$2 million over a period of 5 years. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Aug 84 p 5] 12782

CSO: 4423/1

PLANS TO EXPLOIT COPPER RESERVES, OIL BEARING ROCKS REVEALED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 84 p 4

[Article: "Jordanian Director General of Natural Resources Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT That There Are Vast Reserves of Copper and Oil-Bearing Rocks That Jordan Will Begin Exploiting for Export"]

[Text] In a special interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Director General of Jordan's Natural Resources Authority Yusuf al-Nimri said that Jordan is about to begin commercially exploiting its natural resources, so as to strengthen the national economy. He added that the mineral resources and natural raw materials which have been exploited or discovered confirm the potential for increasing Jordan's share in trading in several natural resources, especially copper, which prospecting operations have confirmed exists in vast amounts in the Abu Khushaybah and the Finan areas located in Wadi 'Arabah, which stretches from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of 'Aqabah.

He said that so far, it has been determined that these areas contain about 65 million tons of ores with a 1.2 percent copper content. One year ago, the Natural Resources Authority retained a specialized international company to conduct a technical and economic feasibility study of these ores, to determine their exploitation potentials. The results of these studies are expected to be delivered in April 1985.

These studies included intensive industrial experiments conducted in Chile on a 700-ton sample of the ore, which was shipped from Jordan especially for this purpose.

Speaking of the oil-bearing rock discovery, al-Nimri said that Jordan has reserves of more than 50 billion tons of these rocks, spread throughout northern and central Jordan, as well as in the eastern desert areas.

Technical studies have shown that these rocks contain about 13 percent hydrocarbons by weight, and that on the average about 28 gallons of liquid fuels can be extracted from each ton of these rocks by the refining process. Al-Nimri added that the Natural Resources Authority, working with a specialized international company, has conducted a preliminary technical and economic feasibility study on exploiting these rocks to produce liquid fuels through the refining process. These studies have shown that a refinery with a daily capacity of 50,000 barrels of liquid fuels could be established.

Al-Nimri said that before conducting detailed technical and economic studies for a refinery of this capacity, the Natural Resources Authority is now taking the necessary steps to determine how much ground water is available in the al-Lumum area, where this industry will be established. Water is essential to the success of such an industry, since the proposed refinery will need about 25 million cubic meters of water a year.

8559

CSO: 4404/652

JORDAN

FOREIGN LOANS FOR ROADS, RAILROADS GRANTED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1452, 31 Aug 84 p 45

[Article: "Multi-National Loans for Jordan"]

[Text] The Jordanian Government has obtained US\$133 million in loans from four different sources to finance several road and railroad projects. The road projects include repairing and rehabilitating numerous main roads, in addition to building a new road to al-'Aqabah Port and a new truck parking area in that city. The railroad projects include rehabilitating 110 kilometers of Jordanian railroads, in addition to purchasing new equipment and locomotives and repairing four other locomotives.

The Jordanian Government has been assured loans from the following sources: \$75 million from local finance sources, \$30 million from the World Bank, \$11.4 million from the Saudi Development Fund, and \$9 million from the Islamic Development Bank.

The balance of the loan, amounting to about \$18 million, will be obtained in the form of export development facilities.

In carrying out these road rehabilitation projects, Jordan intends to improve transportation and trucking across its territory to both Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Work on these projects will begin early next year, and will be completed in 2 years at the most.

In this context, construction has begun on a new road from al-Zarqa' to the Syrian borders, to shorten the distance between 'Amman and the Syrian borders by 10 kilometers as compared to the existing road, in addition to facilitating transit truck traffic coming from Syria.

This project will cost an estimated 8.06 million Jordanian dinars. A 4 million Kuwaiti dinar loan has been obtained from the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, and the rest will be covered by the Jordanian Ministry of Public Works budget.

8559
CSO: 4404/652

JORDAN

BRIEFS

NEW DEPUTY INFORMATION MINISTER--Jordanian Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf has carried out most of the clauses in the program to develop various information media, and has begun implementing a series of measures aimed at expanding the regional and international scope of Jordanian information. Her most important recent decision in this respect was the appointment of Deputy Minister of Tourism Michel Hamarinah as deputy minister of information. He will assume his information duties at the beginning of the month. Former Information Minister Butrus Salah had appointed him information advisor for the Jordanian prime minister. New Deputy Minister Hamarinah has held numerous diplomatic and administrative positions in the past, and had been involved in information activities during his stay in the United States, before taking over the duties of deputy minister of tourism. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1448, 3 Aug 84 pp 8-9] 8559

CSO: 4404/652

KARAMI DISCUSSES SECURITY PLANS, ARMY, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1449, 10 Aug 84 pp 14-16

[Interview with Prime Minister Rashid Karami by Bari'ah Miknas 'Alam-al-Din:
"Rashid Karami to AL-HAWADITH: Syria Will Withdraw After Israeli Withdrawal;
Saudi Arabia Leading Plan To Bolster Lebanon's Security and Economy"]

[Text] Optimism is reflected in the words of the "effendi prime minister" who has returned to government to put an end to a war which started in the final days of his government that split in two in 1975.

The signs of confidence and optimism appear on Karami's face and in his words and the signs of pride also emerge when talk of his accomplishment of closing the Israeli office in Dubayyah quietly, deliberately, patiently and without clamor is brought up at his residence in Beirut.

Added to this accomplishment are numerous other accomplishments in 1 month whose achievement had been obstructed by the conditions of war for 10 years.

It can be said that everything has changed in the effendi [Karami] except his eloquent language. He is loyal to this language when faced with the question of journalists.

Some observers describe Prime Minister Karami as a British politician by virtue of his composure, patience and willingness to give only a little of the abundant information in his possession because he believes in the rule that calls for meeting needs discreetly.

Prime Minister Karami prefers to cook on a slow fire in the most tempestuous hours. He asks those who censure him to check the results produced by this policy in the distant and near past before they condemn and before they make their judgments.

Amidst tens of visitors, including officials, politicians, high-ranking employees and citizens, we said to Prime Minister Karami:

[Question] You seem relaxed, rosy-cheeked and optimistic. We hope that Lebanon feels as you do.

[Answer] God willing. Certainly, this is how Lebanon is.

[Question] The success of the first phase of your plan to rescue Greater Beirut is being crystallized day after day. However, there are those who assert that this is a mere truce, regardless of how long it lasts. What makes you assert that it is not so but that it is the beginning of a solution?

[Answer] The saying goes: the people's will is from God's will. Every citizen aspires nowadays for more than security. This is why we are exerting efforts to crystallize this aspiration on the ground. There are a number of local, regional and international signs that encourage reassurance and optimism regarding the possibility of achieving success in the salvation process through the national unity government which reflects the political concord. Here, some claim that security by consent is not guaranteed. I say that after 10 years of bitter fighting, matters must come to an end, beginning with a truce and with security by consent, provided that this is coupled with the legitimate government's performance of its role and of its duty, and this is what we are doing. We agree on the security plan and then entrust implementation to the army establishment and to the internal security forces. This is why the defense law has been amended and why the new command has been formed and has drawn up the plan. Implementation is taking place satisfactorily, even though in phases, because it is better for things to take some time than to resort to haste which may sabotage the ongoing efforts.

This is why we are certain that cooperation between the main forces in the arena is the way to legitimacy, security, stability and lasting peace, God willing.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are these local, regional and international signs?

[Answer] At the local level, we notice that there is consensus on the demand for security among all the Lebanese and among the main forces in the arena which until recently were fighting each other. These forces are now cooperating in the Council of Ministers where the decisions are taken unanimously and where all of the forces are displaying their true desire to achieve security and safety. Regionally, we find that Syria in particular is declaring day and night its support for the government's efforts to bring Lebanon out of its tribulation. The Syrians are reaffirming their determination on this position of theirs because a final end must be put to the issue of Lebanon so that they may turn their attention to the area's other issues.

Internationally, we hear almost daily positive statements supporting our security and our political steps, whether by the United States or by the Soviet Union. This in itself is one of the encouraging signs which we can consider a rare, historic opportunity for salvation.

[Question] They describe the mingling of the army in central Beirut as an embodiment of federalism in its early phases. Is it truly so, or is this a real beginning for building the non-sectarian national army, and how?

[Answer] Some slogans have been reiterated during the Lebanese crisis, including the slogan of federalism. This is why I am not surprised by such a question. The psychological impact of this issue is still present even though the first decisions of our government concerned Lebanon's unity. Along with discussing the security plan, this unity required discussion of the issue of the army establishment. All the decisions taken regarding this establishment are for the sake of restoring its unity and its cohesion so that it may embody the unity of this homeland and this people. Since the beginning, we have stood fast in the face of the attempts at division and fragmentation because such divisions and partition will serve only the Israeli enemy. I can assure all that Lebanon's unity has been and will continue to be safe from all the attempts at division and partition because Lebanon can only survive with the unity of its citizens and sects. This is the biggest accomplishment which means that the Lebanese formula, which is founded on Christian-Islamic unity, is the unique formula of which we must be proud and which we must safeguard.

[Question] In a statement published today, Karim Baqraduni says that they are not prepared to discuss political reforms and that the solution lies in decentralism. Moreover, we see on the ground the division of security in the areas and the sectarianism of the army. How do you explain these facts?

[Answer] Despite my esteem for the statements some of them make here and there, these statements are no more than the underscoring of positions that do not affect the government's progress, which embodies the will of the Lebanese. This is evident in the declared positions that cling to the unity of Lebanon's soil, people and institutions. It did so happen that under painful past circumstances the army split into brigades and the brigades in turn split into smaller units, reflecting clearly the sectarian tendency. This is why our government has undertaken to merge the army and to restore its unity so that it may resume exercising its role of defending the country and the citizens. This is what we are seeking and what we are working for so that Lebanon's unity may be entrenched forever.

[Question] Is this what is called normalization?

[Answer] No, this is called rebuilding the army.

[Question] It is said that the normalization is not succeeding.

[Answer] No, everything is moving forward: the normalization, the army and its role. Everything is moving forward together.

[Question] The idea being formed outside Lebanon does not reflect this image.

[Answer] I am not concerned with the "outside." I am concerned with the "inside."

[Question] The Lebanese fear that the heavy weapons may be brought out of their controlled stores at any moment. Who guarantees that this will not happen and when will the heavy weapons be gathered?

[Answer] According to the plan, the heavy weapons are, for a start, to be put in specific sites under joint supervision so that the state may be the custodian of these weapons and so that nobody may be able to use them until the arrival of the next phase during which these weapons are to be gathered finally.

[Question] What are the security priorities after Greater Beirut? Are they the security of the mountain or of the north, and how can the security of these difficult areas be achieved?

[Answer] This question is similar to the question which centered on the eastern and western contact lines and on the impossibility of implementing a security plan, as some people believed. But now that we have made these successful strides in Beirut, we are in the process of studying the security plan for the mountain and the north. Therefore, during our presence in the Council of Ministers, we have been studying the security plan for these areas. I will be divulging no secret when I say that this study will be completed shortly and that its initial phases will be implemented. These phases may include the international highways from al-Awwali River to Sidon and to al-Madfun.

[Question] Where have the liberation of the south and the security arrangements for the south reached? Is the information about international contacts for a solution that places the south under the joint supervision of the army and the UN forces accurate information?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the plan for the south's security, which is a Lebanese responsibility, is being studied by a special military committee. We have given this committee a period of time. Afterwards, the discussion will be announced in the light of all of this. We welcome the mediation of any friendly country wishing to help us setup a program for Israel's withdrawal from the south, the western al-Biq'a' and Rashayya. We will rely on our own forces, especially the army, and we say frankly that our interest and the interest of whoever wants security lie in the establishment of a healthy and strong Lebanon, not in the continued presence of a troubled and chaotic Lebanon, as it is now, because this situation creates all the problems and the difficulties about which some who blame Lebanon for failing its responsibilities complain. If Lebanon wants to shoulder this responsibility and defend its security and sovereignty, would it be blamed or rejected? We don't expect this. This is why we are with our forces? If an additional guarantee is provided by the UN forces, then we find no harm in seeking their help by expanding the role of these forces so that they may shoulder their responsibilities in the best possible manner.

[Question] Some consider the military committee entrusted by the Council of Ministers with liberating the south a substitute for the truce committee. What is this committee's position in comparison with the truce committee and what is your position vis-a-vis Israel's persistent refusal to revive the truce committee? When will the new committee complete its mission?

[Answer] God willing, the committee will be able to formulate its projections and its plan within weeks. In fact, we still consider the truce extent and in effect insofar as we are concerned. The Security Council resolutions confirm this, even though Israel does not wish to recognize the truce. We believe that Israel's thinking regarding peace in the area is different from its ambitions. This exposes to a large degree the aggressive policy in which it engages against the area's countries. This is why we act in light of our sovereignty and determine our policy in light of our interest. Nobody can deny us this right.

[Question] Minister Nabih Birri has lost hope in Israel's withdrawal from the south and has called for bolstering the national resistance against the occupation. What is your position in this regard?

[Answer] In fact, we are proud of the national resistance which is proving to the entire world the will of our people to defend their right, their existence and the sovereignty of their soil. In this regard, we are like other peoples who were exposed to what we have been subjected and who fought occupation with their national struggle and their sacrifices. This proves that right does not lie as long as there are those who demand it. From this angle, we, as a government shouldering the country's responsibilities in this critical phase, are exerting efforts to liberate our soil.

[Question] Before the security arrangements, Israel is demanding certain political steps, including nullification of the Cairo agreement. What is your future plan for the official relationship with the Palestinian resistance and with the Cairo agreement?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the previous government underscored certain positions in the Arab lobbies, especially at the Arab summits and in the Arab League Council. This emanates from the feeling generated by the events and their developments which made it necessary for all to realize that Lebanon's resumption of its sound role and its cooperation with its sisters, the Arab countries, in defending the area's issues, especially the issue of the Palestinian people and of supporting them in their efforts to achieve their legitimate rights—all this makes us feel reassured of the mutual and common understanding between us and the Palestinian brothers who are aware, as we are, of Lebanon's ability to play a much more positive role in supporting their cause without this bloody conflict whose heavy price we have all paid.

[Question] In the wake of the visit by ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt to Moscow, there has been a lot of talk about a new Soviet role in

Lebanon that includes the issues of political support, expanding the role of the UN forces and supplying Lebanon with weapons. Is this information accurate? Will you visit the Soviet Union, and when?

[Answer] This information was announced by the Soviet officials. In fact, it is not far from the policy of this superpower. We are truly grateful for these positions that support our salvation process and support Lebanon's resumption of its sound role so that it may serve itself, its environment and the world. As for visiting the Soviet Union, when matters settle down and it becomes possible for us to make such a visit, we will not hesitate.

[Question] Your tour in Damascus and Saudi Arabia has been coupled with a lot of information about political and financial support and support for the liberation of the south. Where would you place the outcome of this tour, especially insofar as these three aspects are concerned?

[Answer] In fact, my visit to Syria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been extremely reassuring. In both fraternal countries, we felt the extent of the support for Lebanon, for the process that seeks to establish security and to liberate the south, western al-Biqa' and Rashayya and for the readiness to launch the process of reform and reconstruction. What I heard from President Lt Gen Hafiz al-Asad and from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz strengthen our confidence and our faith that Lebanon is, God willing, moving on the right path toward its major objectives, which are summed up in security and liberation on the one hand and reconstruction and reform on the other.

[Question] But was this financial support--\$450 million decided upon in the past, and is it now new?

[Answer] This is true. But there is new support that will come in the wake of a committee of experts that will be sent to study the projects.

[Question] A Saudi committee?

[Answer] Yes. King Fahd has said that they are prepared to provide us with all we need and that they are also ready to exert efforts with the other Arab countries, especially the Gulf countries, to take the initiative in extending a generous fraternal hand.

[Question] Do you have a plan for the future of the fighters of all the militias when the war actually ends and for where to utilize their capabilities: in the army, in the internal security forces, in the liberation or in the state departments and in the construction projects?

[Answer] I have said that the military security process must be followed immediately or be coupled with the economic and social security process because I am fully aware that the fighters' psychological condition requires some sort of rehabilitation in order that they may be returned

to normal life. Insofar as a psychological cleansing process is concerned, such a process must be studied well and must be compatible with its objectives. The country's climate must be prepared for work, not only to revive the economy which is suffering heavily but also to make the citizen feel that the wheel of work has begun to turn and that the opportunities for earning an honest livelihood are available to all. Moreover, thought must be given to other solutions that help transfer the public opinion from a war atmosphere to an atmosphere of peace. This requires that thought be given to the issue of the fighters in order that this issue be solved in a fundamental manner.

[Question] Is there talk, even if only in principle, of arrangements for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, within what framework and when? Why do some people continue to talk of the possibility of the return of the deterrence forces to Beirut?

[Answer] Such talk of the return of the deterrence forces has died altogether and Syria itself has confirmed its untruthfulness because, God be thanked, we are moving forward with our steps to restore to Beirut its unity, security and stability. This makes such talk something of the past. As for the withdrawal of the deterrence forces from Lebanon, we will not talk about this withdrawal until Israel withdraws without any restrictions or conditions.

[Question] What is your view of the political reservations on the idea of appointing deputies? When will you submit this step and will the appointment be confined to deputies to replace the deceased ones or is it expected that the number of deputies will be raised to 120?

[Answer] The truth is that the issue of increasing the number of the members of the Chamber of Deputies has already been settled. This was made clear in the ministerial statement. The number will be 120 deputies at least. There is a tendency to appoint deputies to replace those deceased in exchange for increasing the number. This is what the Consultative Council, which we hope will be formed shortly, will decide. The constitution will be then amended because the appointment demands such an amendment.

[Question] You always talk of distinctive relations with Syria. Could you speak to us in detail about these relations and what is the formula you envision to achieve permanent stability for this distinctive relationship?

[Answer] The fact is that we have to backtrack to the days of the French Mandate to find out how the relations were through joint customs and the same currency. This proves that the special situation existing between the two countries emanates from a long history. The two peoples are similar in customs and traditions. There are the Lebanese who live in Syria and there are the constant intermarriages. The same goes for the Syrians in Lebanon. Economically, common interest and mutual benefits can be

considered among the bases and mainstays of these relations. This is why the two countries do not exchange ambassadors with each other. Their common borders and their exchange at all levels confirm this distinctive relationship. Moreover, whatever happens in either country, good or bad, has its impact on the other country. This is natural. Syria and Israel are the two countries bordering Lebanon. When we know that Israel has the attribute of an enemy, then Lebanon is left with nobody other than Syria. In any case, these two countries are twins.

[Question] There are urgent questions regarding the miracle that has transformed yesterday's enemies into "today's comrades" in the Council of Ministers. What is the atmosphere among the ministers like?

[Answer] The atmosphere in the Council of Ministers is positive and reflects the nature and psyche of the Lebanese who are prepared to move from one position to another rapidly. I wish the Lebanese could live in the same atmosphere of the Council of Ministers so that they might feel the degree of positive cooperation existing among the ministers to save Lebanon and to put an end to this tragedy in which we have lived for 10 years.

The Lebanese have disavowed the violence that has occurred so far and it is their right and our duty toward them to save them from this tragic situation.

[Question] Do you advise the Lebanese who, along with his children and his future, has been driven abroad by the war to return to Lebanon?

[Answer] He who treats you the same as he treats himself has not done you an injustice. We believe that all the citizens owe this homeland a right. The process of salvation has been launched and there is no justification for people not to return and participate in the rebuilding of their country. This is a national duty which must be performed by all. The Lebanese is, in my opinion, tied by love to his country and Lebanon is, also in my opinion, the most beautiful country in the world.

[Question] Your friends have felt that your late mother was urging you to find a wife before her death. How do you feel now?

[Answer] May she rest in peace. I was in a constant battle with her. She wanted an 'Abd-al-Hamid [grandson] but luck and fate did not help. However, perhaps, perhaps.

[Question] You must be feeling a big void after your mother's death?

[Answer] Unquestionably. If it were not for our concerns, the people and our relations with them, the feeling of emptiness would be very big.

[Question] It is surprising that you have not found the other half during your long stay in Tripoli despite the beauty, learning and poise for which Tripoli women are famous?

[Answer] This is true but luck is amazing.

[Question] What is the slogan we should give AL-HAWADITH for the coming phase?

[Answer] The slogan of love and peace in Lebanon.

8494
CSO: 4404/629

LEBANON

ARAB AID, FINANCING SOUGHT FOR ECONOMY, RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 70, 11 Aug 84 p 63

[Article by Ibrahim 'Awadah: "Lebanon Re-enters Age of Arab Economy; Arab Facilities for Lebanese Exports and 1 Billion Dollars from Saudi Arabia To Rebuild Lebanon"]

[Text] The Lebanese government has taken a positive stride on the path of rearranging the economic affairs of the Lebanese house by re-entrenching Lebanon's economic relations with the Arab world after considerable tepidity in these relations in recent years as a result of the political and security conditions in Lebanon and of Israel's involvement in the Lebanese crisis as of 6 June 1982, when it invaded Lebanon.

It seems that the Lebanese regime, which has chosen recently the arab solution for rearranging its political situation, has decided to choose the same solution to rearrange its economic situation, basing its choice on two fundamental factors: the first is embodied in the fact that the Arab world is the natural market for the Lebanese exports which represent 40-60 percent of the Lebanese national revenue, considering that 90 percent of Lebanese exports flowed, until not too long ago, to Arab markets. The second factor is embodied in the fact that the Arab world, especially the Gulf countries, constitutes the main primary financial contributor which Lebanon needs to finance its urgent construction projects that have become exorbitantly expensive, with the cost estimated by the Development and Reconstruction Board at 90 billion Lebanese pounds (\$15 billion) for the public sector alone. Moreover, the Arab world represents a major market for Lebanese manpower (nearly 400,000 Lebanese workers). This external labor has contributed, especially during the Lebanese war years, to curtailing the unemployment crisis in Lebanon and, consequently, has secured and continues to secure additional income (\$100-\$150 million a month). This has enabled the Lebanese balance of payments to stand fast throughout the war and until 1983 when it experienced a deficit for the first time in its history.

In view of the Arab world's economic importance to Lebanon, the regime began to move within the framework of its efforts to re-establish the open-door economic policy vis-a-vis the Arab world and to rebuild its economic structure--along two parallel lines. The first is embodied in

renewed contact with all the Arab countries to secure suitable markets for its exports, especially its industrial and agricultural exports (nearly 75 percent of Lebanon's total exports) and to amend a number of trade agreements concluded between Lebanon and some Arab countries, especially with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. The second line is embodied in Lebanon's turning to the Arab oil countries to urge them to contribute to financing the bill for the rebuilding of Lebanon.

To achieve this objective, Sami Marun, the chairman of the National Council for Foreign Economic Relations, made a shuttle tour, on the instructions of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, to four Arab countries (Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq) from 13-28 July 1984 during which time he held talks to facilitate the flow of Lebanese exports to Arab markets through amendment of the trade agreements concluded between Lebanon and the above mentioned four Arab countries, with the new amended agreements providing for the entry of additional Lebanese goods to the markets of these countries and granting special facilities for these goods, such as customs reductions and preferential treatment.

The initial results of Marun's visit show that there has been a largely positive response, considering that Syria has promised, through First Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, to increase the volume of its exports through Lebanon and to facilitate the flow of Lebanese exports to the Arab Gulf countries through the Syrian territories. The Iraqi officials, led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister, have underlined Iraq's Readiness to advance all kinds of aid to Lebanon at all the political, economic and developmental levels. As for the Egyptian government, it has translated its promises quickly by inviting the Lebanese-Egyptian committee entrusted with amending the trade protocol that was concluded between the two countries to meet and to begin examining the amendments proposed by the Lebanese side to increase the level of its exports to Egypt. Jordan has also promised to advance all economic aid to Lebanon.

The most that can be said about the outcome of Marun's visit is perhaps embodied in what Marun himself said upon his return to Lebanon when he stated: "The Lebanese economic sectors will feel in the near future the extent of the positive response I have received from the officials in each of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Syria--a response which will inevitably have a positive impact on the Lebanese export and production sectors. The Lebanese--Arab economic relations will experience in the foreseeable future an important transformation which will serve the interests of Lebanon and of its Arab brothers."

On the other hand, to implement the policy of the Lebanese movement toward the rich Arab oil countries in order to secure the sources of financing for Lebanon's reconstruction projects, the Lebanese regime has taken in this regard an important step that is likely to be crystallized on the ground in the very near future.

On Saturday, 28 July 1984, Prime Minister Rashid Karami went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the head of a high-level official delegation for

talks with prominent Saudi officials, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, dealing with political and developmental affairs. Prime Minister Karami carried with him a complete dossier of a number of development projects and of their costs-projects which the Lebanese government aspires to implement as soon as possible and for which it hopes to secure the necessary sources of financing as a sign of the return of security and stability to Lebanon.

AL-TADAMUN has learned from sources in the official Lebanese delegation which visited the kingdom that Prime Minister Karami expressed to King Fahd the hope that the kingdom could contribute to financing a part of the bill for rebuilding Lebanon out of the sums which the kingdom had pledged to advance to Lebanon as aid in the Arab summit resolutions (the Tunis and Fes summits). Prime Minister Karami also expressed the hope that the kingdom will lead a group of the rich Arab countries that will exert efforts to contribute to the financing of the reconstruction projects.

The sources in the Lebanese delegation have also asserted that King Fahd expressed a principled response and absolute readiness to aid Lebanon, especially since the new government has had considerable success in arranging Lebanese political conditions, in restoring security to Greater Beirut and in reuniting it. But King Fahd expressed the belief that the time has not yet come to aid Lebanon's reconstruction process and that the kingdom believes that it should wait a little for the Lebanese regime's new security and political arrangements to become clear and that Saudi Arabia will then have no objective to financing the biggest and most important part of the bill to rebuild Lebanon and to allocate for this purpose sums that may amount to more than U.S. 1 billion. Moreover, the kingdom is prepared to lead a group of the Arab Gulf Oil countries to secure the financial cover for Lebanon's construction projects. King Fahd also told Prime Minister Karami that a delegation of Saudi specialists and economists will visit Lebanon shortly to study some of the construction projects whose implementation Saudi Arabia may finance.

It is the opinion of Lebanese political and economic circles that the success of the new official Lebanese economic movement in the direction of the Arab countries constitute a success for the various sectors of the Lebanese economy and an opportunity for this economy to overcome the crisis of waiting from which it has suffered since 1982, the date of the Israeli invasion, and therefore overcome the stagnation which it has been experiencing for a long period of time, considering that securing markets for the Lebanese exports will bolster the level of Lebanese production and will reduce the public debt which amounted to nearly \$22 billion by the end of 1983. Moreover, securing Arab sources of financing for Lebanon's reconstruction projects will contribute considerably to reviving the economic cycle in the various Lebanese economic sectors, thus providing the opportunity for economic salvation, whereas such an opportunity seemed impossible 5 months ago.

8494
CSO: 4404/629

LEBANON

BRIEFS

SYRIAN ECONOMIC AID--The Syrian government has agreed to grant Lebanon important facilities for the entry of Lebanese exports to its markets. The Syrian authorities have also stressed their readiness to offer Lebanon any aid at this level. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 70, 11 Aug 84 p 59] 8494

GROWTH IN BUDGET DEFICIT--A report by the Central Bank of Lebanon states that the deficit in the state budget amounted in 1983 to nearly 8 billion Lebanese pounds, an increase of 1.7 billion Lebanese pounds over the preceding year. The report adds that the state restored to borrowing from the Central Bank of Lebanon and issued treasury bonds to cover this deficit. Lebanon's revenues had been expected to amount to 5.8 billion pounds last year, including 2.1 billion in customs revenue. However, the Central Bank collected only 1.2 billion pounds in customs revenues because of Lebanon's security conditions during the year. The value of the treasury bonds amounted to 15.8 billion pounds by the end of 1983. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 70, 11 Aug 84 p 59] 8494

CSO: 4404/629

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

NEW DAM PLANNED FOR SITE OF OLD MA'RIB DAM

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1453, 7 Sep 84 pp 50-51

[Article: "Yemen Rebuilds the Ma'rib Dam!"]

[Text] The Ma'rib Dam, which was the reason for Arabia Felix's prosperity and comfort, and the collapse of which in 570 A. H. led to the dispersal of thousands of Yemeni tribesmen throughout the Middle East, will be rebuilt by the Yemeni Government with the help of Turkish experts and Arab money.

The Turkish company which won the contract will begin work in September, and the dam will be finished within 38 months at the most.

The dam building project is financed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. The dam will be built on the same site as the historic dam, at an elevation of 1,200 meters above sea level. The dam, which will be 763 meters long, has been designed to receive the rain water which pours down so abundantly on the Yemeni mountains from May to late September each year. The new dam's reservoir will hold 2.8 million cubic meters of water, which will be diverted to the Ma'rib area, though four canals 63 kilometers long, for irrigation purposes.

It should be mentioned that parts of the old dam, left from its collapse in 570 A. H., are still scattered throughout the Ma'rib area!

8559
CSO: 4404/652

U.S. REPORTEDLY BLOCKS DECISIVE MUJAHIDIN VICTORY

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 340, 17 Sep 84 p 23

[Article by Basil al-Jabburi]

[Text] A celebration was held on 19 August to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the "independence" of Afghanistan - in the shadow of a traditional foreign invasion now more than 4 years old. The Soviet invasion of this country was the result of their fear that the widely unpopular, client Babrak Karmal regime would fall. It succeeded in preserving this regime but failed to assess the extent of its other successes, especially in the guerrilla war launched by the Afghan Mujahidin against both the Soviet forces and the forces of the Karmal regime, which has been unsuccessful for more than 4 years in obtaining popular support to guarantee its survival. This is evidenced by the fact that the Mujahidin strike more blows today than they did in 1979. As a result, the Soviets have thrown in huge numbers of troops, estimated at 15,000 men, to control Kabul, the other major Afghan cities and the air bases as well as to support the government forces and protect the supply routes and food convoys, which are attacked from time to time. The government army is now estimated to consist of 40,000 soldiers compared to 80,000 in 1978. Despite the close cooperation between the two armies, they have failed to achieve any tangible victory over the Mujahidin. Western sources calculate that the Soviets need about half a million troops to be able to control the situation.

In the capital, assassinations, kidnappings, rocker firings, and bombings are everyday occurrences, in addition to regular interruptions of electric power, food and fuel supplies as a result of the continuous attacks on the supply convoys. Despite the Soviets' use of several military tactics, they have not been able to do much to improve their position. They have increased their air-borne troops since 1983 and used random bombardment of villages and other civilian targets in order to deprive the Mujahidin of the popular support they receive from the inhabitants in various ways such as providing shelter, food and information on Soviet and government activities.

Despite Soviet occupation of a fairly large part of the Panjshir plain, they have failed to capture the most important leader of the Afghan armed resistance, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who retreated from the plain with most of his forces at the beginning of the attack, which had little effect on the balance between the two sides in the struggle.

On the other hand, the divisions and political, religious, racial and tribal differences among the parties of the opposition play a role in weakening it and diminishing its capabilities. As Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said earlier: "The Pakistanis do not prevent supplies from reaching us. Rather, they make it difficult for them to reach us at the right time." This is due to the subjection of Pakistani policy to U.S. wishes in order to prevent the Afghan resistance from gaining a decisive victory, for the Americans appear to want the resistance to continue fighting as long as possible in order to achieve several goals, the most important of which is to exhaust the Soviet forces and make Third World countries realize the danger of a Soviet invasion, which pushes these countries to the American side. Then too, keeping the Afghan war blazing gives the Americans a trump card to use in any negotiations that might eventually take place with the Soviets either on the strategic balance between the two countries or on assigning spheres of influence in the world.

Despite the difficulties facing the Soviet forces such as the weakening of morale, scarcity of fuel, ammunition and spare parts, the spread of disease as a result of poor food and sanitation, and addiction to alcohol and drugs, despite all these circumstances, the Kremlin leaders are not prepared, at least at any time soon, to withdraw or to negotiate with the Afghan resistance. They justify their tough stand on the grounds that such a retreat would shake their position in other parts of the world, make the Americans look victorious, and convince the world of the failure of Soviet policy in international dealings. This is in addition to calculations of the losses and gains by the Kremlin generals who do not care about 7000 dead and 15,000 wounded Soviets to date because these casualties constitute only an insignificant part of the Red Army. This is also true of the material losses in the war which do not exceed 1 percent of the Soviet defense costs.

For these reasons it appears that the Soviets will remain for a long time. Perhaps other "independence holidays" will be celebrated in Afghanistan before the country sees the light of freedom.

5214
CSO: 4604/01

COMMISSION DISCUSSES OBJECTIVES OF THIRD 5-YEAR PLAN

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The Third Plan will exert towards the attainment of self-sufficiency in food, greater realisation and implementation of new industrial policy, population control and development of skills, development of infrastructure and strengthening of decentralised local development machinery, an official handout said on Monday night, reports BSS.

This was discussed by the Planning Commission which met in full strength for 10 hours on Monday under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Majeed Khan, Minister for Planning.

The meeting reviewed the major issues including the experiences of Project Implement Division during the previous plan periods, the framework and methodology of the Third Plan, identification of major programmes and policy area, targets and their analytical basis and the role of the Planning Commission as the socio-economic development machinery.

The practical issues raised in the meeting included the basic philosophy, the need for national consensus on economic development policy, definitions of basic needs and the role of government, in their fulfilment, realistic project, preparation involvement of field level permanent project formulation and training for project implementation, the need for realistic data base and project implementation to link with the financial control and management of projects.

The issue of decentralisation also featured in the discussion. It was felt that each ministry should determine the areas of decentralised development activities within the framework of the overall national plan.

The need for comprehensive training of the mid-level officials including their in-country study tour of projects were raised and discussed in the meeting.

The meeting also emphasised the need of training for analytical basis of economic decision making and development management.

For the defects of implementation, the meeting identified the issues including the lack of national plan consistency, lack of coordination, lack of

analytical basis of planning poor preparation of project documents and frequent change of project personnel.

In the new plan, specific areas of decentralised development will be identified with the provision of resource mobilisation at the local level.

There would be central grant to augment local resources and to support local development activities.

Along with the preparation and circulation of the Third Plan, the Planning Commission decided to hold one-day conference of the representatives of all ministries, including directorates, agencies and corporations in the middle of next month to review and discuss both the past experiences and the new guidelines.

CSO: 4600/1018

PROBLEMS IN SERVICING NATIONAL DEBT FORESEEN

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The country's debt servicing liability is likely to exceed the saturation point within a couple of years with the maturity of post-independence short and medium term loans of bilateral and multilateral sources.

With the present level of export earning the debt servicing will be a serious problem for the country if the Government is not cautious in accepting stringent and short-term loans unless forced.

The debt servicing has been increasing every year putting pressure on our foreign exchange reserve. Bangladesh had to pay 136 million dollars in 1982-83 which was over 20 per cent of our export earning. Incidentally the saturation point of debt servicing is 20 per cent of the total export earnings of any country.

The debt servicing percentage calculated since 1973-74 had not included the short-term loans from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and loans and aids for purchase of foodgrains and crude oil. If these are taken into consideration, the debt servicing liability of the country will assume a dangerous situation with the present level of export earning. The debt servicing of the country stood at 129 million dollars in 1983-84 compared to 55.6 million dollars in 1975-76 and 17 million dollars in 1973-74.

The percentage of debt servicing was 19.94 per cent in 1974-75 15.15 per cent in 1975-76 14 per cent in 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1981-82, 20.01 per cent in 1982-83. With the increase of export earning which stood at 825.2 million dollars in 1983-84, the debt servicing pressure on export earning was slightly reduced and came down to 16 per cent during the period under review. But the situation will be worse for the country as the donors are imposing new conditions for the utilisation of the undisbursed portion of the aids.

Besides some bilateral donor countries are trying up stringent loans with grants and exerting pressure on Bangladesh to accept the conditional aid.

The experts opine that Bangladesh must be choosy in accepting loans and aids only on easy terms and conditions in future to avoid economic disaster.

HASINA SAYS JANADAL MISUSING FOREIGN AID FUNDS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] MANIKGANJ, Sept 17--Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today alleged here that the present government was spending millions of takas received as foreign assistance for organising Janadal in the name of relief operation in the flood affected areas.

She said, the self-seekers from different political parties were also casting their lot with Janadal to take advantage of this situation. Not only this generation, our next generation also would have to bear the burden of this huge foreign assistance procured by the present government, she said.

The Awami League president was addressing a public meeting at the local Devendra College ground this afternoon. Presided over by local Awami League leader Mir Habibur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by party Acting General Secretary Begum Sajeda Choudhury, Organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed, presidium members Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Abdul Momen.

Sheikh Hasina said that the nation fell in the grip of military rule with the killing of the Bangabandhu leading to political and economic instability. She said the armed forces by capturing state power could not do any good to the country and nation.

She said that we were not struggling to seize power but to restore the snatched away rights of the people. "We want to bring an end to the military rule once for all through movement," she said. She said we were not opposed to election, but the election must be held under a non-party neutral government.

Sheikh Hasina also called upon the people to observe dawn-to-dusk hartal on September 27.

CSO: 4600/1025

REPORTAGE ON GENERAL ERSHAD'S BAGHDAD VISIT

Remarks on Embarkation

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad left for Baghdad on Saturday on a three-day visit to Iraq with a hope that his visit would further strengthen the brotherly relations between the two Muslim countries.

Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport prior to his departure President Ershad said that the existing Dhaka-Baghdad relations were based on religious cultural, traditional and historical bonds. He said that Iraq was the first Arab country to accord diplomatic recognition to Bangladesh after the liberation and since then Baghdad had been giving liberal economic assistance for our development.

President Ershad who termed his visit as bilateral in nature said that he was carrying a message of goodwill and friendship from the people of Bangladesh for brothers in Iraq. During his visit he added he would discuss matters of bilateral interests and global and regional issues of common concern with Iraqi President Saddam Hossain. He was happy to note that both Bangladesh and Iraq were committed to the principles of the United Nations Non-aligned Movement and Organisation of Islamic Conference. Both the countries had identical views on most of the global and regional issues like Afghanistan Kampuchea colonialism and racism.

Replying to a question President Ershad said that he was not carrying any fresh proposal for discussion with the Iraqi leaders on the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq. But he added the visit would give him an opportunity to know the mind of President Saddam Hossain on the latest situation in the Gulf War.

President Ershad reiterated that Bangladesh wanted an early end to the long war between the two Muslim countries. He pointed out that the last meeting of the OIC Peace Committee held in Jeddah accepted his proposal that entrusted President of Gambia the Chairman of the committee to know the minds of the two governments on the war. Fresh move to end the war by the OIC Peace Committee would be taken in the light of the discussions of the Gambian President with the leaders of Iran and Iraq.

The affected villages are: -- Ku [as printed]

President Ershad denied that his visit to Iraq might strain Dhaka-Tehran relations. Bangladesh has equally good brotherly relations with Iran and Dhaka had been maintaining its neutrality on the Iraq-Iran war he asserted. He said that he would also visit Iran in the near future if he was invited by the Iranian Government.

Trade Agreements

Talking about the relations between Bangladesh and Iraq President Ershad said that the two countries signed a number of bilateral agreements on trade, culture and manpower. The ministerial level Joint Economic Commission would meet in Dhaka sometime next month and the first meeting of the commission was held in Baghdad last year, he said.

Replying to a question the President ruled out the possibility of changing the name of Bangladesh's candidate for the post of OIC Secretary-General. He said that there would be no new nomination for the post. Former Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shams-ud Doha was nominated by the government for the post

During his stay in Iraq President Ershad will visit the shrines of Hazrat Ali (Ra), Hazrat Imam Hossain (Ra) and Hazrat Abdul Qader Jilani (Ra). The President said that he would pray for the country's continued peace and progress at the mazars.

The President is accompanied by Begum Roushan Ershad, the presidential entourage which includes Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Prof. Yusuf Ali, Special Assistant to the President Barrister A. R. Yusuf Adviser to the President and Chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Mr. Zakir Khan Chowdhury.

Report on 16 Sep Talks

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] BAGHDAD, Sept. 16--The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. A. M. Ershad, held formal talks today with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein covering wide ranging subjects of a bilateral, regional and international interests, cables BSS Special Correspondent Hamiduzzaman.

In the talks held at the Presidential Palace here this morning, they also discussed concrete measures for further strengthening trade and economic relations between the two brotherly countries.

After the talks Bangladesh delegation spokesman briefing the accompanying journalists said that the talks between the two leaders were held in a very cordial and warm atmosphere.

The talks were marked by 'greater understanding' between the two sides on promotion of bilateral ties which is entrenched in the history, religion,

cultural and economic bonds to the mutual benefits of the two fraternal peoples.

President Ershad extended a cordial invitation to President Saddam Hossain to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient date. President Hossein accepted the invitation with great pleasure.

In the talks, President Ershad was assisted by Relief Minister Prof. Yousuf Ali, Special Assistant to the President Mr. A. R. Yousuf, Presidential Adviser and Chairman of the Muktijoddah Command Council Mr. Zakir Khan Chowdhury, Additional Foreign Secretary Mr. Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Rezaul Karim.

Iraqi President, Saddam Hossein was aided in the talks by Mr. Tarek Aziz, Member Revolutionary Command Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Head of the President's Secretariat, with the rank of a Minister Mr. Hammed Hammadi, Secretary to the President with the rank of a Minister, Dr. Sadeq Al-Wash, Health Minister and Minister-in-Waiting, Lt. Gen. Sawkat Ahmed, Mohammad Sayeed Al-Sahaf, Foreign Secretary and Mr. Tarek Abdul Jabbar Iraqi Ambassador to Bangladesh.

Exclusive Talks

Prior to the talks, the spokesman said, President Ershad and President Saddam Hossein met without any aides. The exclusive meeting between the two leaders lasted for 75 minutes.

Earlier, the Minister-in-waiting Dr. Sadeq Al-Wash, took President Ershad in ceremonial motorcade to the Presidential Palace.

On arrival at the place, the President was cordially received by the host President. They shook hands warmly and embraced each other.

The talks over President Saddam Hossein walked down along with President Ershad to the portico of the gleaming palace to see him off. The host President gave a farewell embrace to President Ershad and stood at the portico waving hands as the motorcade carrying the Bangladesh President sped out.

CSO: 4600/1026

15-PARTY ALLIANCE STATEMENT SCORES GOVERNMENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The 15-party alliance reiterated yesterday they will realise the political and economic rights of the people in the course of the movement and no amount of threat and coercion can prevent the people from their legitimate struggle.

The statement of the opposition alliance came on the eve of expiry of the September 15 deadline, the date, they set for ending martial law by accepting five point demand of the people.

But Government far from heeding to the democratic aspiration of the people resorted to a new game of diverting people's attention from the democratic struggle, they said.

Following their predecessors they have fielded neo-Islamist and old haggards to win the political game by exploiting the religion. These elements have raised the bogey of Islamic Republic and infiltrated guerillas among the innocent people of Vartuka, only 12 miles away from the Dhaka city. These people even did not hesitate to amputate the hands of the innocent villagers in the name of so-called Islamic justice.

They accused the Government of giving indirect support to this medieval barbarism.

The 15-party alliance said, the government explanation regarding the seizure of Bangladesh bound arms-loaded ship by Italy did not bear whole truth.

In no place the National Press has published that any Bangladeshi was detained by Italy for illegal gun-running. But the government has stressed on this point which is non-existent and by doing this they have tried to divert the main issue.

The 15-party alliance is going to launch its four-day meet the people tour programme from September 15.

An alliance source told, according to the programme, the leaders of the alliance will split into 19 groups each group consisting of four to six leaders

representing Awami League and other components of the combined and fan out throughout the country to hold meetings, rallies and demonstrations.

As a matter of fact, the 19 groups will hold as many as 125 public meetings and workers' rallies throughout the country during the tour.

The Principal objective of the whirlwind mass contact tour will be explain to the people the salient features of the five-point demand and mobilise public opinion in support of the projected hartal on September 27.

All leaders of the alliance except Seeikh Hasina are expected to participate in the programme. Sheikh Hasina will address public meeting in Mymen Singh Jamalpur and Kisorgonj after September 20.

15-party leaders will meet in JSD office on Saturday at 5 p.m.

CSO: 4600/1020

HASINA SPEECH AT LAWYERS' MEET DISTURBS BEGUM ZIA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Fifteen party alliance leader Sheikh Hasina has driven a wedge in the united movement with 7-party alliance indirectly accusing its main component party (BNP) Government before the army takeover as 'illegal'.

"All governments after the killing of Bangabandhu in 1975 were illegal, came to power through conspiracy and killings and elections under martial law were not free and fair" she told a lawyers meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association last evening.

BNP Chief and seven-party alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia who was present and sitting in the same table was visibly rattled at the remarks of Sheikh Hasina. She was seen repeatedly looking at her watch and whispering to the host, Advocate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, probably to end the meeting.

The two alliances have launched a movement on a common five point programme for restoration of democracy. After a successful hartal on August 27 they have again called for a countrywide hartal on September 27.

The invitation to Jamaate Islami leaders to the lawyers meeting was later withdrawn at the behest of 15-party alliance which is learnt to have declined to sit with Jamaate Islamis in the same forum. The Coordination Council of the Bar Associations which arranged the meeting, however, preferred participation of the 15-party alliance leaders.

Continuing the Awami League leader said the process of power change initiated with the killing of her father continued.

The solution of the problems piled up during all these years cannot be resolved till restoration of democratic rule in the country, she added.

She wondered why lawyers, the upholders of truth of justice did not come forward for the trial of the killers of her father.

In an oblique reference to 1975 coup leaders Col (Retd) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major (retd) Dalim she questioned how they were rehabilitated in politics and Bangladesh mission abroad.

Begum Khaleda Zia who spoke earlier said BNP and the Seven-party Alliance stood for restoration of democracy by strengthening the movement.

"We cannot accept election under the prevailing situation" she said adding "we are thinking how to do the election".

She thought that the problem of the judiciary were multiplied by splitting the High Court in seven and setting up courts at upazila level. Public expenses have increased manifold in unproductive sector at the cost of the productive sector.

Begum Zia said the country's economy was jeopardised. The recurring flood problem remained unsolved. Floods have been caused by openings barrages in upper reaches of common rivers across the border.

In an oblique reference to Janadal she said a section of opportunists was being created in the country to help perpetuate autocratic rule. This section had been harassing the people and making provocative statements, she added.

The BNP leader expressed her party's total solidarity with lawyers demands and aspiration.

Former Prime Minister and BNP leader Shah Azizur Rahman said changes in the judiciary were made in violation of the constitution affecting its independence. The first duty of a democratic government would be restoration of the High Court to its original standing. He called for a total unity of the political parties on a single point--to bring an end to the present system.

A number of other leaders from the 15 and 7-Party alliances including Mirza Golam Hafiz, Shahjahan Siraj, Abdul Mannan, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Abdur Rouf, Ali Ashraf and Nirmal Sen addressed the meeting.

Earlier, convenor of the Coordination Council of Bar Associations Shamsul Haq Chowdhury stressed the importance of the judiciary which he said has been disintegrated. He said the judiciary is not for the lawyers alone but for ensuring justice against injustices, protect the oppressed against the oppressors.

He suggested that politicians should not accept elections till they were assured of a free and fair polls. Experiences in the past showed polls under the system now prevailing in the country could not be fair, he added.

The Coordination Council of the Bar Associations in its morning session of extended meeting adopted a number of resolutions. It decided to boycott the court by lawyers all over the country for indefinite period from November 18.

Lawyers who spoke at the morning session were Ali Azam, Shawkat Ali Khan, Abdus Shahid Lal, Asaduzzaman, Dewan Golam Hamza, Nurul Haq, A N M Yusuf, Abul Hashem, Fakir Delwar Hossain, A B M Rafiqullah, Nurul Islam, Mohammad Ali, Habibur Rahman Khan, Wazedul Islam, Nurul Haq Talukdar, Shamsul Huda, Mollah Faziur Rahman, Nurul Amin, Abdul Hakim, Habibur Rahman Khan, Rezaul Karim, Zakir Hossain, Nurul Islam, Ahmed Ali, Dewan Abul Abbas, Jalaluddin Faruq, Abdul Barek Mia, Siddiqur Rahman Hazra, Kafiluddin Ahmed, and Alimuzzaman Chowdhury.

ISLAMIC PARTY MAKES STATEMENT ON BAKSAL, ARMS SHIP

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamic Party of Bangladesh has protested the indecent remark made by BAKSAL (Krishak Sramik Awami League) on the concept of Islamic Republic.

They said it is in no way in contrast to the ideals of the liberation war of the country. They have the right to propagate what they believe. The majority will of the people must prevail. Since the overwhelming majority are Muslims so it is natural that the country will be guided by their aspiration.

On the other hand the BAKSAL, an alien concept, was experimented in the country at the behest of the imperialist and expansionist power. The concept which was never accepted by the people met a violent end on August 15, 1975.

The Islamic Party asked the Government to break its silence over the issue of detention of arms-loaded ship by Italy. An interested quarter was trying to implicate the names of Col Rashid and Col Farooq with the issue. When the issue of bringing back the heroes of the August Revolution to the country had gained momentum, a known circle was again out to vitiate the atmosphere by putting obstacle on their arrival.

CSO: 4600/1020

POLITICIAN INDIGNANT AT INDIA'S BEHAVIOR

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 16 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Maj (retd) M. A. Jalil, convener of Jatiya Oikya Andolan (national unity movement) in a statement issued yesterday expressed indignation at the dilly-dally tactics of India in sharing the Teesta waters.

Condemning 'Indian hostile attitude towards Bangladesh' he said that the government had failed to take effective measures to foil anti-Bangladesh design of India.

He said that the people of Bangladesh had been deprived of its rightful share of the Ganges waters and would soon be deprived of Teesta waters.

During rainy season India opens the Farakka Barrage to wash away the people and crops of Bangladesh and does not release water in the dry season in order to turn the country desert, he said.

He said that the Indian motive was to destroy the economy of the 90 million people of the country in order to force it to adopt capitulationist policy towards it.

Maj. (retd.) Jalil made a fervent call to all patriotic forces and individuals of the country to come forward to take a united programme against 'sinister designs' of India.

CSO: 4600/1028

AUGUST 1975 COUP LEADERS RUMORED IN CHITTAGONG

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] September 17--Entire Chittagong police was alerted today when an unidentified person informed the administration that Col (Retd) Faruq and Col (Retd) Rashid landed here yesterday.

Leaders of August '75 coup including these two retired arm officers were packed out from the country with the fall of Mushtaque regime in early November, 1975 and were last heard living in exile in Libya.

Additional police force was deployed in and around the port city. Police sources told The New Nation that all their stations in the region were asked to detain 'a particular car'. The number and type of the car was not however disclosed.

A highly placed official who wanted to remain anonymous said they received an information that Col Faruq and Col Rashid made an unauthorised entry into Chittagong by plane via Dhaka on Sunday.

CSO: 4600/1025

FORMER PREMIER: HASINA REMARKS 'UNTENABLE'

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The former Prime Minister and Vice-Chairman of BNP Shah Azizur Rahman rejected as untenable Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina's contention that all governments that came into office after August 15, 1975, were illegal.

Reacting to her statement, the former Prime Minister told ENA that the late President Ziaur Rahman was inducted into office by massive Sepoy-People Revolution that took place in broad-day light and not under the cover of darkness.

In this connection, Shah Shaheb pointed out that the Government that ruled the country between August 15 and November 6, 1975, was called an Awami League government.

Discussing the nature of the Sepoy-People Revolution he said it was not a military coup or a conspiracy to oust an elected government, after coming to power. President Zia ascertained public opinion through a referendum which came in unmistakable verdict in his favour, he added.

Thereafter, he said presidential election was held and President Ziaur Rahman was contested by the combined opposition nominee late General M.A.G. Osmany. Till his election as President, Gen. Ziaur Rahman didnot organise any political party of his own and was assisted by a number of advisors.

CSO: 4600/1024

DHAKA PRESS REPORTS ACTIVITIES OF SHANTI BAHINI

August Kidnapping

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] CHITTAGONG August 20--Six persons were killed and 10 others were kidnapped by different factions of the so-called Shanti Bahini recently, according to a delayed report available here today.

On August 3 ex-UP member Suryasen Chakma, 42, was shot dead at Panchari upazila of Khagrachari. Nakulchandra Chakma, Hemranjana Chakma of Rangapani Chara and Binod Kumar Chakma of Golakchara were also killed for their refusal to pay money to so-called Shanti-Bahini.

The other two dead were deadman of Mouza 299 of Lama upazila Maa Thoal and Badiul Alam were kidnapped and later killed.

The kidnapped persons included one UP member of Parachara under Khagra Hari, three launch crews and three peddlers of floating bamboo carriers.

Two More Killings

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] CHITTAGONG, August 22--The docalled Shati Bahini have killed a village headman Mr. Khawai Ong and Mr. Gura Mia in Lama area on Monday.

The Shanti Bahini called Mr. Ong and Mr. Mia from their respective homes and shot them to death at nearby jungle

Police recovered the bodies from the jungle on Tuesday and sent them to hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered in this connection with Lama police station.

Two Arrests Made

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Aug 84 p 10

[Text] CHITTAGONG, Aug 25--The law enforcing agency rounded up five Shanti Bahini men from Dighinala area of Khagrachari district on last Thursday.

According to the Khagrachari police, the five Shanti Bahini men of Priti faction were caught red handed by the law enforcing agency while they were forcibly extorting money from the local people for their Bahini funds.

All the five arrested Shanti Bahini men were remanded to Dighinala Thana police custody. A case has also been registered with Dighinala Thana in this connection.

According to another report, the armed Shanti Bahini men kidnapped one Jamini Kumar Rowaja at gun point from his house at Tabalchari area of Matiranga upazila on last Tuesday. The Shanti Bahini men demanded huge ransom from his family for release of Jamini Kumar.

More on Killings, Kidnapping

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Aug 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] CHITTAGONG Aug 26--Four persons including a settler were killed and nine others kidnapped by the outlawed Shanti Bahinimen in Chittagong Hill Tracts recently.

According to Chittagong Hill Tracts police the four dead were identified as settler Gura Mia tribal headman Thoai Aung Shu dipta Chakma and Shadatta Khisha. While two of them were killed at Laea Upazila the remaining persons were shot dead at Rangamati town.

The so-called armed Shanti Bahinimen called out Gura Mia and head man Thoai Aung from their houses at midnight at Lama. They took them to dense forest area for interrogation. Later the Shanti Bahinimen killed these two persons there and left the place leaving behind their bodies. The Lama police recovered their bodies from the forest next morning. The police could not yet ascertain thereason for their brutal killing.

The two armed Shanti Bahinimen gunned down Shudipta Chakma and Shadatta Khisha at Rangamati town. They riddled their bodies with bullets through the windows of their houses at night. The assailants fled away before the arrival of the police

The Shanti Bahinimen also kidnapped Hemaranjan Chakma and Bined Kurnar Chakma at gun-point from Golakchara area of Khagrashari. Their whereabouts are still unknown. Besides seven others including one Union Parishad member and three launch crew were kidnapped by the Shanti Bahini in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Separate cases have been registered with Lama Rangamati and Khagrashari thanas in this connection.

Results of Activities

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Sep 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] CHITTAGONG Sept. 1--With the deterioriation of law and order situation created by the Shanti Bahini in Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Karnaphuli Paper Mills was forced to cut the production by 30 per cent last year.

According to the KPM sources the mills could produce only 16 thousand tons of paper out of a total target of 20 thousand tons last year. The shortage in receipt of supply of raw materials from Chittagong Hill Tracts was said to be the main reason for the fall in production.

The Karnaphuli Paper Mills has set the production target at 27 thousand tons for the current year. But the mills management gives pessimistic view about the achievement of production target in the backdrop of poor supply of raw materials.

The mills annually needs 76 thousand tons of raw materials of which 42 thousand tons are bamboo and 32 thousand tons are wood. Except five thousand tons of bamboo the entire quantity of raw materials comes from Chittagong Hill Tracts. The five thousand tons of bamboo used to be procured from different places other than Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Karnaphuli Paper Mills receives the supply of bamboo and wood from Rhaikong and Kasalong zones, the most dense forest areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts. The enlisted contractors of the mills extract the bamboo and some wood from these zones. Later they pile up the whole lot and bind together. Then their workers bring the lot to the mill site by water route. It takes several days to reach the mill. The trucks also carry some wood from Chittagong Hill Tracts to mills site.

Another Difficulty

With the spurt of lawlessness, created by the so-called Shanti Bahini in these dense forest areas, the extraction of bamboo and wood has become too difficult and risky for the workers. As a result, the contractors of the mills cannot recruit required number of workers for extraction of bamboo and wood. A small number of workers who join this job under security cover of law enforcing agency carry out the extraction work at a much slow pace making the expenditure high. The workers now also demand higher wages for their extraction work on the pretext of risk of the job.

There are now 60 heavy trucks engaged by the KPM in carrying bamboo and wood from Rhaikong and Kasalong zones. These trucks are now operating under the guard of law enforcing agency. The trucks under armed guard go to the forest together to fetch bamboo and wood and return simultaneously. But previously these trucks piled in different shifts for the whole day and carried much more quantity, of bamboo and wood.

Recent Incidents

Several recent incidents also dampened the workers' spree of extraction of raw materials of the KPM from these areas. The outlawed Shanti Bahini men at gun-point kidnapped one sareng of a launch hired by a KPM contractor to facilitate movement to and from the extraction site last month. Two workers of another KPM contractor were killed recently in cross gun fire between law enforcing agency men and Shanti Bahini men at Kasalong area. Besides, six workers of a contractor were also kidnapped by the armed Shanti Bahini.

The outlawed Shanti Bahini sometimes forcibly extract large sum of money from the contractors to raise fund for their anti-social activities.

One Killed, Leader Held

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 16 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] CHITTAGONG, Sept. 15--A member of the Shanti Bahini was killed and one injured yesterday morning during a combing operation by the law enforcing agencies into afforested interiors of Naikongchhari under Bandarban district.

While the injured person succeeded in escaping arrest, while one Shanti Bahini Zonal Commander, self-styled Lt. Pushkin along with two others, were apprehended.

Besides, thirteen automatic weapons, 1000 rounds of ammunition and valuable documents were recovered during the combing operation.

According to a spokesman of the Bangladesh Army, acting on a secret information the Army raided a number of Shanti Bahini camps in the hilly interiors of Naikongchari area.

The Army repulsed a counter-offensive by Shanti Bahini members and in the exchange of fire one Shanti Bahini insurgent was shot dead.

Only two days back, in a similar raid by the law enforcing bodies, former zonal commander of the area was killed. Four automatic weapons were also recovered. Combing operation in the area is still going on.

CSO: 4600/1028

FARRAKA BARRAGE CONTRIBUTES TO MASSIVE FLOODING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Sep 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Mostafa Kamal]

[Text] RAJSHAHI, Sept. 15--Are the flood devastations of Padma at Rajshahi and Mahananda at Chapai Nawabganj just hazards of a temporary nature?

Experts warn that it could be an annual feature as now evident and would further aggravate assuming gigantic proportions in future if measure to contain the speedy siltation of Padma riverbed was not taken up immediately.

The siltation of Padma river bed has been accelerated in recent years due to the commissioning of the Farakka barrage on the otherside of the border, an expert dealing in surface water hydrology told the Times.

Recurring massive floods in past five years in this area only confirm this fact.

The Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway constructed by the year 1966-67 had never been submerged by flood waters. But after 1971, flood waters often reached the level of the highway and since 1980 it has become a regular feature, local Roads and Highways officials told the Times.

According to the sources, since 1980 the highway has to be closed to vehicular traffic for at least a week every year during the peak flood period. The Farakka barrage was commissioned in 1974.

The highway is affected when Mahananda swells. Mahananda that falls onto the Padma at Godagari rises when the Padma remains in spate, as the discharge of water from Mahananda becomes negligible, according to a hydrologist.

Farakka is contributing to extra siltation on Padma riverbed. Only silt free water is withdrawn through Bhagirathi river in India. The Farakka barrage system includes silt removing arrangement. The extra silt is washed into the Bangladesh part of the river through the sluice gates of Farakka, and understandably the silt is deposited in riverbed in Bangladesh, an expert said.

It could be forecast without any hesitation that the problem was going to take an alarming turn in future the expert said. It has been observed that India withdraws Ganges waters in lean period but never diverts any the excess water of the river during the rainy season that causes floods in Bangladesh.

The water discharge rate of Padma reaches the maximum of 23 million cubic feet per second (cusec) during the rainy season. It contributes the maximum to the estimated 2.4 billion tons of silt carried by the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river systems through Bangladesh, said an expert.

Meanwhile, can the Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway be saved from annual flooding. Some residents of Basudevpur union where the highway is submerged almost every year told the Times that their demand was to raise the surface of the highway by several feet.

A Roads and Highways official of Rajshahi, however, termed this as an impracticable proposition, because raising the surface of the highway would require maximum reinvestment at the rate of at least Taka 45 lakh per mile.

Raising the surface of the highway would required dismantling of the existing pavement, earthfilling and compaction and then construction of a new pavement. He said that instead of going for such a big spending he would prefer measures to keep the highway smooth for 11 months of the year when there is no flood.

The 30-mile Rajshahi-Chaparnawabganj highway was constructed between 1962 and 1967 at a total cost of Taka 70 lakh, according to records.

CSO: 4600/1021

NVOI: U.S. 'MAIN CULPRIT' IN MINING OF RED SEA

TA102058 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Oct 84

[Unattributed, untitled commentary]

[Excerpt] Dear compatriots: Yet another plot by the U.S. imperialist administration in the Indian Ocean region met with failure and defeat. A few months ago the Reagan administration started a lot of commotion to the effect that the shipping lanes from the Red Sea to the Suez Canal were mined. Indeed, in this area several cargo ships were slightly damaged by colliding with unidentified explosive devices. In connection with the Red Sea incidents, the Pentagon launched an extensive propaganda campaign. A large number of warships belonging to the United States and some other NATO countries quickly arrived in the area. However, after more than 2 months of searches in the Red Sea, neither Washington's so-called salvage units nor those of its Western associates could discover who was the real culprit of the criminal incidents in the Gulf of Suez. Moreover, the Pentagon's official spokesman was forced to admit that ships equipped with the latest technical instruments and equipment could not discover even a single mine in this area.

It is not difficult, however, to discover the main culprit of this plot. The manner in which this subversion was implemented--like an apple cut in two halves--is similar to what the CIA perpetrated along the coasts of Nicaragua. The plot hatched in this part of the Indian Ocean is not in the least an exceptional event. The Pentagon and the CIA had hatched a similar plot for the Persian Gulf. Washington's sabotage experts had intended to blow up several commercial ships in the busiest sea lanes, including the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz, and put the blame on Iran. They had prepared the ground for this through their agents in the Islamic regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry had announced that by sinking a large oil tanker, Iran would close the Strait of Hormuz. Immediately after this statement by the Islamic regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs--which was apparently ill-considered but in fact very much calculated--the CIA and the U.S. naval command drew a plan for several subversive operations in the Persian Gulf similar to those along the coasts of Nicaragua and in the Red Sea, in order to be used as a pretext to increase the U.S. military presence in the region.

The aggravation of the situation in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf region, is part of the general strategy of U.S. imperialism aimed at creating a climate of military and political hysteria throughout the world. Washington's current administration is exploiting every pretext for this purpose. The most important pretext in the Persian Gulf region is the U.S-desired Iran-Iraq war. U.S. imperialism considers this war as the best pretext for threatening the region's countries, including Iran.

CSO: 4640/52

IRAN PROTESTS AGAINST 'SAVAGE STEPS OF IRAQI AGENTS' IN MEDINA

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] Foreign Ministry Protests to the Saudi Charge d'affaires

The officials of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Tehran to the Foreign Ministry, and handed him the severe protest memorandum of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It contained Iran's four requests from the Saudi officials with respect to the savage acts of Iraqi agents in the noble sanctuaries of Iranian pilgrims.

According to the report of the Islamic Republic's News Agency correspondent, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on 15 September 1984 at 0030 hours where he met with Mr Besharati, deputy foreign minister, and Mr Lavasani, political chief for Arabian and African countries. The officials of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitted a written memorandum to him, and informed him of the Islamic Republic of Iran's severe protest with respect to the savage act of beating and wounding of Iranian pilgrims by Iraqi agents, within the limits of the noble sanctuaries, which resulted in the martyrdom of one of the wounded by the name of Haj 'Ali Seydi. In this meeting, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Tehran was questioned as to why the Saudi police failed to show the slightest reaction in this instance and ignored the savage act of Iraqi agents by noninterference and silence or interference to the advantage of the Iraqi agents, whereas the same police would disperse the smallest gathering by resorting to force. In our opinion, this act was planned by those who have been slapped in the face by the magnificent demonstrations in Mecca and Medina.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Besharati told him: "While condemning this inhuman and non-Islamic deed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests immediate action on the four points listed below."

- condemnation of this dreadful crime,
- arrest of the criminals,
- trial and punishment of the criminals, and
- keeping the Islamic Republic abreast of the steps taken.

Communiqué of the Minister of Islamic Guidance

A communiqué was issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, minister of Islamic Guidance and chief of the Supreme Council on Pilgrimage, regarding Saddam's savage crime against Iranian pilgrims in glorious Medina.

The text of the communiqué was supplied to the Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA] as follows:

In the name of the Almighty, the pre-planned crime of the mercenaries of the Iraqi ruling regime, which occurred under the protection of the Saudi Government agents in glorious Medina, has wounded the heart of the Muslims and particularly the pilgrims to Mecca.

No crime is unexpected from Saddam's who are charged by Zionism and oppression to confront the will of the Muslims and the Islamic revolution; but the Saudi Government must answer as to why its agents become unsettled by the holy cries of Muslims against America and Israel, and place God's guests in hardship and subject them to persecution for their rejection of polytheists and atheists. They do not merely leave Saddam's mercenaries unrestrained, but also assist them in carnaging the enemies of America and Zionism with their criminal hands.

The Saudi Government must be accountable for this shameful crime which took place in Saudi Arabia and resulted in the martyrdom of one of the committed Muslim brethren and injury to other Muslim brothers and sisters. We guarantee that the nation and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not so easily overlook this tragic occurrence. At this juncture, we vehemently and emphatically ask the Saudi Government to follow up this case and to arrest and severely punish the agents of this flagrant and infamous crime. We hold the Saudi Government responsible for any incident arising out of the anger of Iranian and other Muslim pilgrims due to the Saudi Government's procrastination in effectively dealing with this crime,

We, also, warn the Saudi Government that just as the assault and battery and Saudi prisons during these few years did not prevent the Muslims from their godly mission, meaning the rejection of polytheists and oppressions, by the same token the new offense by the new servants of colonialism will not repress this great movement; rather, it will intensify the wrath of the awakened Muslims, notably the anger of the revolutionary and Muslim nation of Iran against oppression, Zionism and their affiliates.

I offer my congratulations and condolences to the presence of the great leader of the Islamic revolution on the occasion of the martyrdom of yet another soldier of Islam who was martyred at the hands of the enemies of God and Muslims during the blessed period of hajj in the greatest battlefield of the Muslims against Satan and the oppression. I ask God to exalt the rank of this esteemed martyr, and to give patience and reward to his survivors, and to heal promptly the honorable wounded of this flagrant crime. Greetings and peace.

Mohammad Khatami, minister of Islamic Guidance and chief of the High Council on Pilgrimage.

ETTELA'AT Dispatched Correspondent Report

Once again, in continuation of their spiteful actions against the children of Islam, the Zionist Ba'thists committed a dreadful crime in glorious Medina by wounding a group of our Muslim sisters and brothers, and martyring one of the brothers.

Under the protection of the corrupt Saudi police and following a predetermined plot, the instigators attacked on Wednesday night and pitilessly battered with sticks and clubs a group of people who were protesting against displaying in public the portraits of the enemy of Islam, Saddam the infidel.

This savage act took place after these sisters and brothers protested to the police of the Saudi regime for their silence about the display of the pictures and requested their removal. While the protestors were leaving, they were attacked from behind by the Ba'thist agents.

In spite of the fact that the Saudi police had, from the beginning, objected to the display of anyone's pictures in the public view, not only did it not show any reaction in this case, but in numerous instances rushed to the aid of Saddam's mercenaries, beating those of our sisters and brothers who had fled from the hands of the Zionist Ba'thists and arresting some others.

Reports indicate that the injuries sustained by our brothers and sisters were to such an extent that even the Saudi doctors have been forced to confirm the intensity of Saddam's agents crimes. In some cases, they have prescribed 2 months of treatment for the injured.

On the other hand, Saudi hospital officials confirm that as a result of various fractures of the skull, ribs, spinal cord, and the pelvis, Brother Feyzi has attained the exalted rank of martyrdom. This issue, meanwhile, is being pursued by the officials of Iran's pilgrimage headquarters, the pilgrimage authorities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the responsible brothers in Iran. It is necessary to point out that after creating this painful incident, the Ba'thist criminals closed down their pilgrimage headquarters and promptly fled glorious Medina the following morning. Furthermore, with the efforts of the Islamic Republic's responsible officials, the unblemished body of the said individual is to be transferred to our country.

12737
CSO: 4640/430

KUWAITI SHEYKHS PREFERRED SHAH TO KHOMEYNI

GF051303 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Sep 84 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Have the Kuwaiti Sheykhs Taken a Stand Against Islamic Iran?"]

[Text] It is already known that the Kuwaiti sheykhs have ruled Kuwait for the last 200 years and they will not let go of this grip easily.

The annihilated shah who was a devotee of the United States, had a common stand with the Kuwaiti sheykhs. He too wanted to rule like the Kuwaiti sheykhs. It was of no consequence to him whether or not his people lived in poverty and remained illiterate and ignorant. The only important thing for him was to rule the country. It was for this reason that the shah was not a danger to the rulers of Kuwait, but on the contrary, he strengthened their position.

Kuwaiti sheykhs were the sincere friends of the shah and his departure rendered an irreparable loss to this friendship. These sheykhs lost one of their friends and supporters. Therefore, they could not extend a hand of friendship toward an enemy of their friend and supporter, because enemies of the shah absolutely could not be friends of the Kuwaiti sheykhs. So the Kuwaiti sheykhs showed no love toward the Islamic revolution of Iran from its very inception. On the contrary, Like Saddam Takriti, they tried their level best to show their hostility towards the Islamic revolution of Iran from the very beginning. They knew that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not cooperate with them and that an Islamic government may become a danger to their government. They preferred the shah to remain in Iran because he had nothing to do with them or their government. He had only tried to bring them under the cover of his protection and they too were not unwilling to have such protection, because they knew whatever the annihilated shah was, after all he was a shah, and a monarchy will never become an enemy of the sheykhs, particularly when after the victory of the revolution, Iranian people themselves were on the scene and they elected their leader and president and also parliament members. It was only natural that this system of government would not suit the sheykhs. They felt that this new system would influence the people of Kuwait and would awaken them from their deep sleep. If this had happened

the Kuwaiti sheykhhs would have had to look for some other work for themselves because they would have been forced to hand over the government to the people. Those who have visited Kuwait after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran reported that the people of Kuwait welcomed the revolution and that photographs of Imam Khomeyni could be seen everywhere. The reason was that, first, the people of Kuwait are Muslims, and Muslims welcome an Islamic government and are happy about such a government.

When they saw the new situation, the Kuwaiti Sheykhhs realized that a continuation of this state of affairs would not be in their interest. The Kuwaiti officials removed photographs of Imam Khomeyni from the streets, avenues, and shops, and threatened the Muslims of this country that if they again displayed photographs of Imam Khomeyni, they would be dealt with according to the law.

This was the first expression of opposition from the Kuwaiti sheykhhs toward the Islamic revolution.

However, the Islamic revolution of Iran paid no attention to this attitude of the sheykhhs and Iranian officials took no notice of it. On the contrary, they extended their hand of friendship toward the people of Kuwait. They believed that Islamic Iran was a friend of all Arabs and non-Arabs and that they considered the people as different to the government.

At the beginning of the revolution Iranian officials were aware of the real essence of the Arab sheykhhs: They were not independent and were dependent on others, and they were scared of the Islamic revolution.

It was in these circumstances that the Iranian officials went their own way but the Kuwaiti sheykhhs put opposition to the Islamic revolution at the top of their program and also acted accordingly.

CSO: 4640/53

ISLAMIC LEADERS BLASTED BY NVOI

GF081630 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Tasu'a-e Hoseyni"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots. Hundreds of years have passed since the valiant struggle of Hoseyn, son of 'Ali, but even now the name of Hoseyn, sone of 'Ali, the pioneer of the martyrs, the courageous one who rose up to defend his struggle against despotism is uttered with respect by one and all.

Neither Mo'aviyeh [first omayyad caliph], Shemr [general who slew Hoseyn], nor Abu Sofyan [infidel leader] and his torturers overtly flouted the injunctions of Islam. They did not proclaim themselves as the sole heirs of the prophet and the only supporters of the rule of the Koran and of God like the leaders of the Islamic regime. They did not put God, the Caliph, the successor of the prophet, the successor of the Imam, and the only suitable source for expressing opinions (?on a par) with each other.

History has shown that men like the deceitful criminals who have thrust their rule on the people in our despot-stricken and mullah-infested country have done so by capitalizing on the religious susceptibilities of the people and have perpetrated all their crimes in the name of protecting Islam. In other words, hypocrisy and deceiving the people, donning the garb of holiness and pseudoclerical chastity by sporting turbans, cloaks and rosaries and beards, etc, are all tricks of the enemies of freedom, enemies of the people, and supporters of social annihilation. The tactics which the leaders of the Islamic regime have adopted after hundreds of years in their campaign against the revolutionary forces, and the loyal supporters of the masses of millions of toilers are the same despicable and abominable ones which were used (?in the time of) Abu Sofyan. In those days as well, the (?imposition of religious) beliefs was also carried out on a wide scale. As with Mo'aviyeh [first omayyad caliph], the propaganda machinery of the disgraceful leaders of the Islamic regime in our country today is producing falsehoods, rabble rousing, and accusations to cast doubt on the family of 'Ali Ibn-e Abi Taleb.

Experience has shown that the people who desire freedom and independence are able--by uniting on a common front--to bring down their nemesis, the blood-shedding leaders who deceive the nation in the name of religion.

CSO: 4640/51

NVOI URGES RECOGNITION OF KURDISH ETHNIC RIGHTS

TA091504 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Oct 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Solving the Kurdish Problem Is Conditional on Recognition of the Ethnic Rights of the Kurdish People"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The bloody Islamic rulers who have betrayed the goals of the Iranian revolution are continuing a fratricidal war against the patriotic Kurdish people with intransigence, obstinacy, and brutality.

The Kurdish people, who selflessly took part in the victory of the Bahman Revolution along with the rest of the Iranian peoples, demand their ethnic rights. They demand autonomy for Kordestan within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of a free, prosperous, and independent Iran. These just and legitimate demands of the Kurdish people are supported by all the peoples of our multinational homeland. The treacherous Islamic rulers, however, have violated all their promises and commitments in these connections, and have launched a brutal onslaught against the Kurdish people. This fratricidal war is going on even now.

In the name of Jihad for the sake of God, Islamic regime's leaders are massacring defenseless Kurdish old men, women, and children with the aid of Israeli-manufactured bombs and bullets and U.S. missiles. Despite all the savagery of the Islamic regim's gunslingers, however, the Kurdish people's struggles are continuing. The Kurdish people are valiantly defending their rights.

Contrary to the false claims of the rulers and military officials of the Islamic republic with regard to brilliant victories, and despite the formation of bases and strong patrols in the regions of Kordestan, the Islamic regime cannot deter the Kurdish people from struggling for their legitimate and ethnic rights. The people of Kordestan are continuing their struggle.

The Kurdish people want their indisputable rights. The Kurdish people want to enjoy the right to determine their own destiny and recognition of their national culture and language within the framework of an independent Iran and in unity with the other peoples. Without doubt the national Kurdish movement has a legitimate domestic basis and a national mission, and is totally linked to the movement of our people for freedom, independence, and Iran's territorial integrity.

In view of these obvious facts, the Kurdish people's movement enjoys the support and backing of the entire Iranian people. This support and backing provides power and force for the struggles of the Kurdish people.

Experience has also shown that one cannot crush the just struggle of the Kurdish people by murder, slaughter, mortars, tanks, missiles, and bombs. The Kurdish problem has only one solution, which is recognition of the ethnic rights of the people of Kordestan within the framework of a free and independent Iran.

CSO: 4640/50

CLERGYMAN'S SON LINKED TO PLANE HIJACKINGS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 339, 10 Sep 84 pp 8-9

[Article by Dr 'Ali Nurizadeh: "Bank Deposits of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ringo' and Ayatollah 'Rasputin'"]

[Text] Those who witnessed the ceremonies surrounding Ayatollah Khomeyni's return to Iran still remember the face of a young man in his 30's sitting behind Khomeyni in an Air France plane during Khomeyni's trip from Paris to Iran in January 1979. At times Qotbzadeh made a joke and at other times Khomeyni's son Ahmad did so.

The young man left the plane as soon as it landed at Mehrabad Airport and cried out to those who greeted him: "Long live the revolution and long live brother Mu'ammar. We will erect a bridge between Tehran and Tripoli."

Many persons thought this young man was one of the youthful Iranian revolutionaries close to Khomeyni in Paris and on his trip to Iran. However, the appearance of this youth in a clergyman's garb 2 days later and his relations with some of the Arab newsmen who accompanied Khomeyni to Iran revealed the man to be the son of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, a member of the Revolutionary Command Council and the possessor of extensive contacts with Palestinians and Libyans. Although he had a Bahraini passport in the name of Gholam 'Abbas, he was not a Bahraini but Shaykh Mohammad and known to be insane because he had spent 3 years in the Ruzbad Mental Hospital in Tehran.

Three days after the shah's regime fell and Khomeyni came to power, Mohammad Montazeri announced he was inviting all the liberation and popular struggle movements in the world to come to Iran to pay homage to Khomeyni and get financial and military aid from the Iranian revolutionaries. A few days later, more than 300 men and women from the East and the West representing so-called liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America arrived in Iran.

Mohammad Montazeri became the revolutionaries' host and his authority exceeded that of the government, as Engineer Bazargan, the Iranian prime minister after the revolution, objected several times to Mohammad Montazeri's interference in activities that were no business of his, especially in connection with the government's policies toward Arab and Islamic states, after the embassies

of some Arab and Islamic states protested against groups of terrorists coming to Iran as representatives of illegitimate movements and groups trying to overthrow legitimate regimes in their countries.

Mohammad Montazeri did not listen to Bazargan's objections or to his father's advice. He even invited Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud to come to Iran and announce the union of Iran and Libya. Readers of AL-DUSTUR may remember the story of Jallud's trip to Iran and his failure to meet with Khomeyni because of Bazargan's objections and the staging of demonstrations in Tehran against Libya and the role of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

When Mohammad Montazeri found that the government would not give him the opportunity to play the Che Guevara role in Iran, he opened up an office in a magnificent building which he personally confiscated from its original owners and invited revolutionary young men and women to register their names in this office to go to Lebanon and to volunteer to serve in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance.

Dozens of young Iranians who dreamt of liberating Palestine registered their names. One day in April, young Montazeri and 200 of these youths went to Mehrabad Airport where they forced an Iranian plane to transport them to Syria.

Although Bazargan ordered the Iranian Air Force to bring down the hijacked plane if it tried to leave Iranian air space, the plane did leave Iran and fly to Damascus. But after the Syrian authorities refused to allow the "revolutionaries" plane to land at Damascus airport because the Iranian Government had contacted them, Montazeri went with the hijacked plane to Libya.

After spending 3 days with his Libyan friends, he returned to Iran with the youths who had accompanied him on this trip.

Although Bazargan ordered his arrest and the arrest of those with him, Mohammad Montazeri succeeded in foiling Bazargan's efforts after Khomeyni himself intervened, saying the "Mohammad did what he did only because of his revolutionary naivete and we must forgive him."

We must say that Khomeyni's relationship with Mohammad Montazeri was close, for Mohammad is his sister's son (Khomeyni's sister is Ayatollah Montazeri's wife) and Khomeyni used him in his struggle with the nationalists and some rival religious leaders.

It was not long after Mohammad Montazeri returned to Iran from Libya that an Iranian magazine published an interview with one of the young women who accompanied him on his trip to Libya. This girl, Fatemeh Yusofi, said that some of the men who were on the trip tried to rape her, and that the boxes and bags Montazeri carried to Libya did not contain books and revolutionary tracts but were full of jewels, gold, and bank notes.

The Iranian girl also revealed that not all those who accompanied Mohammad Montazeri were revolutionaries. Indeed, some of them (25) were members of SAVAK, cabinet ministers and deputies from the shah's time who had paid large sums of money to Montazeri to arrange for their escape from Iran. The uproar caused by this interview was so great that Ayatollah Montazeri had to disown his son, calling him insane. The people also began to call him Mohammad Ringo, an allusion to the American cowboy hero who holds up banks and trains and has affairs with women.

Three months later another Iranian plane was hijacked to Libya by Mohammad Montazeri when Mohammad Ringo in July of the same year went to the airport with a gang of armed men and forced a plane to take them to Libya. This time Mohammad managed to smuggle out 400 kilograms of gold. This is the gold that he deposited in a bank (Swiss Union) vault and the Iranian regime is now trying to get back.

After Mohammad Montazeri returned from his second trip to Libya, relations between him and Ayatollah Beheshti, who had the real power in Iran at that time, became tense. He began to call Ayatollah Beheshti "Rasputin" and "Mr Three Percent," an allusion to the commissions he received in his commercial dealings. Beheshti responded by publishing medical records of Mohammad's insanity and his undertaking to help men of the shah's regime to escape and smuggle out money (from the treasury) to Libya.

Fate willed that Mohammad Montazeri and Ayatollah Beheshti should die together in June 1981 when the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in Tehran were blown up without either of them benefiting from the vast amount of money that Mohammad smuggled out through Libya and by way of his friend Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and that Ayatollah Beheshti sent to Swiss banks through Germany and France and by way of his friend Ahmad Heydari.

5214
CSO: 4604/44

BRIEFS

BALUCHESTAN, AFGHAN BORDER CLASHES--Clashes between Baluchi tribes and guards of Khomeyni's regime have increased. According to a report which we received at the headquarters of our clandestine radio station from Zahedan moments ago, Baluchi tribes have confronted guards in areas of Baluchestan bordering on Pakistan and also in tribal lands adjacent to the border with Afghanistan. They have stopped the movement of guards in the area. According to the same report, in clashes between Baluchi tribes opposing Khomeyni's regime and guards units dispatched to the area yesterday, one gendarmerie officer and a gendarmerie soldier were killed. The guards stationed in Sistan va Baluchestan are there to receive the commissions the mullahs in Tehran collect from the drug traffic in the region. The opposition by the Baluchs to the guards stems from this. According to our reports, Baluchi tribesmen are asking for the intervention of national gendarmerie to control the borders and monitor all crossings. The same reports also add that the forces of the puppet regime in Kabul have recently made two attacks against Baluchi villages in Iran murdering a number of brave Baluchi tribesmen and taking their belongings back to Afghanistan as booty. The traitorous mullahs have avoided any objections to the regime of Karmal in the face of such repeated aggressions across the border and have only closed the Afghan consulate in Mashhad. [Text] [(Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Oct 84 GF]

CSO: 4640/54

LOCAL RESOLUTIONS URGING ZIA TO REMAIN AS PRESIDENT CRITICIZED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 30 Aug 84 p 3

[Abdul Qadir Hasan column "Nonpolitical Affairs"]

[Text] Following Sind, Lahore too has been engulfed by the wave that originated in Quetta and the day is not far off when the entire country will be in its grip. To begin with, the elected Municipal Council of Quetta passed a resolution calling on President Ziaul Haq to offer to stay in the office of president. In the original resolution, the president was asked to shoulder the responsibilities for 5 years, but the Lahore Municipal Council did away with the time limit of 5 or 10 years. It has instead said that the president should carry on the responsibilities as long as the Islamic objectives are not realized.

Without considering President Zia's opponents or his foolish friends like the above-mentioned local bodies, I submit that in my opinion Mr Zia is an extremely gentle, God-fearing and pleasant person. Over the past 7 or 8 years he has trained himself in politics and has acquired a feel for the nation. He can no longer be dismissed as a gruff soldier. If in accordance with whatever procedure is laid down for the president's election, he is elected president, it won't be a bad choice. He will make a better candidate than most others. Men can change in no time, but in my estimate he will continue to discharge his important responsibilities quite well. But the adoption of flattering resolutions under official influence does not reflect favorably either on President Zia or on the local administrations.

We have already witnessed the consequences of such farcical resolutions. Basic democracies of the days of Ayub Khan, which are now known by other names, used to pass such resolutions and in their talk the elected councilors would try to prove that the fortunes of Pakistan and Ayub Khan were inseparably linked. And that if, God forbid, something happened to Ayub Khan's presidency, Pakistan would not survive. There is something funny about dictatorships. In the lifetime of the dictator it is made out that without him the security of the country would be in danger. But after he has passed away people wonder how the country survived under him. Here, under one dictator the country could not survive. Anyway, such resolutions are not helpful to President Zia's presidency and what is more he does not need them. It would be different if these local bodies were to be made into constituencies. In fact, the votes he gets will be either from those who already regard him as fit for the presidency or from those who have some axe to grind.

Local bodies have been elected in free elections and the fairness of the election of its members is universally accepted. A significant number of voters participated in these elections and cast votes for the candidates of their choice without fear or favor. These fair elections have given the local bodies honor and prestige. It is well said that a person's respect depends on himself. In the same way, respect for members of local bodies also depends on them. The election of the president is far removed, but in their haste these local bodies are impatiently clamoring for the president. One cannot dismiss the view of some Lahore councilors that local bodies are nonpolitical bodies and the matter of the presidency is a purely political one, so that an expression of opinion on the subject does not fall within the purview of the local bodies. On the one hand, these institutions are dabbling in matters which do not concern them; on the other hand, the president does not need their testimonials. Only when he announces a procedure for election of a president will it become clear whether there is any role for these local bodies at all. At the moment, doubts are being cast on whether municipalities and councils will emerge as electoral colleges. The possibility is remote because everyone remembers what happened to the basic democracy regime. Hitherto this administration has displayed one quality and that is that it has not repeated the mistakes of previous martial law regimes. Rather it has learned lessons from them. Let us hope things do not take the turn illustrated in the following anecdote. One man's cow fell ill. He took it to his neighbor and asked what he had done when his cow fell ill. The neighbor said he had given it turpentine. The man gave his cow turpentine and it died. When he complained to his neighbor that the medicine he recommended had killed his cow, the neighbor replied that his own cow had also died from the same medicine.

12286
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ZIA'S PARTICIPATION AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY DISCUSSED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 1 Sep 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Nonpolitical Institutions, Political Functions"]

[Text] The force and vigor with which municipal institutions all over the country have initiated the campaign to present and approve resolutions urging President Ziaul Haq to place his nomination in the coming presidential elections gives the impression that these local bodies have no problems left to deal with and that the objective for which were established and their members elected have long been fulfilled and that all the problems of the citizens have been solved. It appears that the most important problem left is to pass resolutions urging President Ziaul Haq to participate in the elections. The most controversial of all these was the Shahdadpur resolution that was recently approved unanimously. This resolution states that President Ziaul Haq is president for life. It appears that the local bodies are competing to outdo one another.

This campaign began when President Ziaul Haq said that if people insist he will place his name in nomination for the presidency. No sooner had the president made this comment than local bodies all over the country began their campaign, insisting that he place his name in nomination. It is surprising that local bodies, which are supposed to be non-political institutions, should insist on this. Nevertheless, the nonpolitical platform has been continuously engaged in making political demands. This gives rise to the suspicion that if the government is not behind this campaign, the bureaucracy is most certainly responsible for it. Such a suspicion was echoed during the course of a debate held on another such resolution presented in the municipal council in Hyderabad last Thursday. One of the members of the council, in expressing his view, said that President Ziaul Haq is president today and that he will remain president tomorrow; he does not need any vote. He also noted that the resolution was being presented at the suggestion of the bureaucracy.

Similar doubts are being expressed by other people. This is why correspondents asked President Ziaul Haq himself in Lahore last Wednesday if the resolutions being passed by local bodies didn't give the impression that he was using them for personal political interests. The president in his defense said that those were merely suppositions and that he did not ask for such resolutions nor did they have his approval. He said that such questions should be put to the mayors. The government still believes that municipal institutions are nonpolitical bodies and that they should continue to remain as such. It is absolutely wrong

to assume that Ziaul Haq or any of his colleagues would turn municipal institutions into electoral forums. In this connection, we do not have any political designs. President Zia's very clear-cut clarification made it clear that the government is not involved in the campaign of municipal bodies, even though it is surprising to see how such a nationwide campaign can be carried out under a martial law government without the permission of the chief martial law administrator. However, the bureaucracy is capable of doing anything. Whenever the bureaucracy grows weary of someone, it uses tactics that outwardly appear to favor the government. Such things have taken place in the past, when Ayub Khan was told that he could remain president for life and was made to believe that without him, God forbid, Pakistan would cease to exist. It is generally considered a blessing that such a notion never occurred to President Ziaul Haq, who has always said that he is not indispensable for Pakistan nor does he have any desire to remain in power forever. Nevertheless, even the most pious and God-fearing are likely to stagger and give in in the face of persistent rhetoric from all sides.

We would like to make it clear that we have no objection whatsoever to President Ziaul Haq's participation in the elections. All we would like to ask is that whatever action is taken, it should be strictly in accordance with laws and regulations. The first objectionable point is that political demands are being thrust upon nonpolitical organizations. If some councilors are proposing President Ziaul Haq's name today, then tomorrow other councilors will present resolutions favoring their own candidates. And after this, passing resolutions has become their right. But this will turn local bodies into sites of political conglomeration and the real purpose of their existence--the well-being and prosperity of the people--will be undone. Now that President Ziaul Haq has clarified the matter, we know that this movement does not have his approval. It will be better if municipal bodies are made to understand that they should make a commitment that they will no longer indulge in passing resolutions. Such action may be compared to the friendship of foolish people. The impression it is creating among the people is that general elections will not bring about any changes in the higher levels and that all this is just mere show. The matter will not be restricted to local bodies alone. Now some newspapers have been publishing reports in which an attempt is being made to show that democracy will prove to be very dangerous to Pakistan and that whenever there has been a military government in Pakistan there has been law and order. Examples are being given in support of this point of view and it is being said that the great rulers in the world were connected with the military and that even the Muslim rulers in the early ages were connected with the military. Although during the early ages Muslim rulers were good generals, they were never military officers. It is the duty of every Muslim to be a good soldier, but being a good soldier has never been considered to be the special characteristic of those in charge of governing the country. President Ziaul Haq may take part in the elections with pleasure. But to enter the political arena he will have to get rid of his military uniform. The law prohibits government servants from taking part in the elections. Resolutions cannot help people who are barred from taking part in the elections by virtue of laws and regulations. President Ziaul Haq will be free to take part in elections once he leaves government office. Under the regulations, he can take part in the elections with pleasure and at the same time allow others who have the necessary ability to also take

part in the elections. We would like once again to draw attention to the fact that the army has always fulfilled the task of defending the frontiers much better by remaining aloof from politics. The army should consider defense of the frontiers of the country to be its main duty, and in the conditions presently prevailing, the country should demand this of the army to an even greater extent than ever.

9315

CSO: 4656/213

PAKISTAN

SELF-RELIANCE IN FACE OF BORDER THREATS ADVISED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 1 Sep 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Situation on the Borders and Our Responsibility"]

[Text] The concentration of Russian forces on Pakistan's northwestern border, in Afghan territory near the North West Frontier Province, continues and has now spread over the entire frontier. A few days ago, Russian troops were reported to be gathering in Afghanistan's Paktia Province and at that time their number was believed to be 10,000. Now, the number of Russian soldiers has reportedly increased by 30,000 and totals 40,000. At the same time, Russian troops are massing on the border of Baluchistan Province, adjoining Afghanistan. According to reports in the foreign media, Soviet-Afghan forces are concentrating near Chaman as well and this clash [as published] is being arranged in order to close the Pakistani-Afghan border. This most recent activity follows upon the constant infringement of Pakistan's air and land borders and provocative actions. Soviet and Afghan forces are strengthening their hold on border outposts and roads in areas contiguous to Pakistan. This is the situation on the western frontiers. As far as the eastern borders are concerned, Indian media have confirmed that the 21st Indian Army Division is stationed on Pakistan's borders. According to the latest reports, Indian Army activity has intensified along the Control Line and Pakistani frontiers adjacent to Indian Punjab. Clashes between Pakistani and Indian troops on the Control Line continue and domestic and foreign media confirm the occurrence of such clashes. Pakistan's Chief of State, General Zia, told newspaper correspondents in Lahore the other day that conditions on the eastern and western frontiers were not satisfactory; he termed the violation of Pakistan's borders by Afghanistan and Afghan aggression as cause for concern.

The tension existing on Pakistan's eastern and western borders is certain to give rise to expressions of anxiety. As far as the concentration of Afghan and Russian troops on the western border is concerned, one cannot regard this as merely aimed at stopping the movement of Afghan refugees and relieving Mujahidin pressure on besieged Afghan and Russian forces in certain areas. The exodus of refugees from Afghanistan and their arrival in Pakistan can become a problem for us, but it cannot cause any anxiety to the Russian and Afghan administrations. Russia certainly wants anti-Soviet elements to leave Afghanistan, since that would not only help Russia maintain its control but would also exacerbate the Afghan refugee problem in Pakistan. It would also be incorrect to regard the concentration of Soviet and Afghan forces on Pakistan's borders as a ploy to

exert pressure in the Geneva negotiations because Pakistan's position in regard to the Geneva negotiations is unequivocal and clear. From all indications, these negotiations have not proved fruitful; certain foreign media have already reported the failure of the negotiations. Hence, the concentration of Soviet forces should be regarded not as a weapon of pressure for moving the talks in the direction Russia desires but rather as an expected post-negotiation action by the Russians.

At the same time, in view of the concentration of Indian troops on the Control Line and the eastern borders, and the situation arising from the continuing series of border clashes, wisdom dictates that enemy actions and movements in all three sectors not be viewed as isolated happenings but as connected incidents in a chain of events. We have said in these columns before that if the weapons that Mrs Indira Gandhi has used inside India to remove the governments of certain provinces, to put an end to the government of Faruq Abdullah in occupied Kashmir and in eastern Punjab--in particular her actions against the Sikhs, all aimed at ensuring her success in the elections and the defeat of her political opponents, should fail to achieve that objective, and if in spite of all her undemocratic, unconstitutional and dictatorial measures, she should see herself going down in defeat, then she will not hesitate to take such action in sensitive areas adjoining Pakistan that would lead to a logical conclusion, divert the attention of the people from domestic problems and ensure Mrs Gandhi's success in the elections. The route that Mrs Gandhi will choose to achieve her objective should not be difficult to guess.

Certain friendly countries, especially the United States and some European countries, have assured us not only that Russia will not attack but also that if Russia should attack, we would not be left alone and would receive all kinds of help. But these countries are silent in regard to aggression by India and we should have no illusions on this score. We should remember not only certain bitter experiences of the past, international interests and the policy of detente but also keep in mind as well that soon elections will be held in the United States as a result of which no American leader can take an important step that could affect his chances in the elections. At any rate, after their defeat in Vietnam, the American people are not willing to get stuck in another morass. Even if Russia does not get directly involved in aggression on the western borders, it is not difficult to envisage the difficulties it could create for us by operating under cover of Afghan forces.

We have to realize at this time that we will have to deal with the situation ourselves and rely on our own strength to preserve our freedom and integrity. In addition to strengthening our outer borders, we have to strengthen our inner borders as well through unity and single-mindedness; and to achieve this objective, the people should be given every opportunity to participate in the affairs of the country. Setting aside all political differences, political parties should be taken into confidence concerning the course of action to be taken. The more the people feel that they are fully participating in the affairs and this fact in itself can guarantee the strength of our internal front. It is necessary, then, to strengthen our external and internal fronts without delay. The assurances of friends are well and good, but we should not forget that we have to deal with the situation ourselves. No foreign power can guarantee our freedom, sovereignty and integrity.

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